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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head Views Talks With Bendjedid *[Algiers Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP Ready To Exchange Prisoners With Israel *[VOM]* 1
Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Conference Proposal 1
DFLP Leader Condemns U.S. Tactics *[Algiers Radio]* 1
PFLP-GC Rejects U.S. 'Schemes' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
U.S. Plan 'Dangerous Maneuver' *[Algiers TV]* 2
PLO Official Criticizes Moves *[AL-AHALI 7 Aug]* 2
Palestinians in Occupied Territories Appeal to UN *[JANA]* 4
Al-Husayni Discusses Palestinian Peace Plan *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Palestinian Representation at Conference Viewed 4
West Bank Figures Cited *[London AL-HAYAH 9 Aug]* 4
PLO's 'Abbas on Representation *[AL-RA'Y 12 Aug]* 5
Palestinian, U.S. Teams Meet in Occupied Territories *[Tunis Radio]* 7
Benyahia, 'Abbas Discuss Palestinian Question *[Tunis Radio]* 7
Reportage on Qaddumi's Visit to Turkey *[cross-reference]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ghozali Confirms State of Siege To Be Lifted *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Human Rights Leader Cites Unrest Toll *[Paris International]* 8
FIS Lawyers' Comment on Judicial Situation *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Message From Gorbachev *[MENA]* 9
AL-AHRAM Reports Oil Exports Exceed Target *[10 Aug]* 9

Libya

Reservations Expressed on Iraqi Embargo *[JANA]* 9
Solidarity Committee Praises Lifting of Barriers *[JANA]* 9
Eytan Proposal for Palestinian State 'Ridiculous' *[Tripoli TV]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Ministry Denies Report on Capture of Iraqis *[KUNA]* 10
Kuwaiti Amir Interviewed on Iraq's Invasion *[MENA]* 10

IRAQ

Foreign Ministry on Rejection of French Bill *[INA]* 11

Trade Minister Denounces Draft *[INA]* ... 14
More on Resolution's Rejection *[INA]* ... 15
Speaker on Talks With Kurds, Draft Resolution *[INA]* ... 16
Imprisoned South African Citizen May Be Freed *[Johannesburg Radio]* ... 16
Minister on Reported Release *[INA]* ... 17
ICO Factfinding Mission Requested for Iraq *[Tehran TV]* ... 17
Paper Lambastes Islamic Conference Resolutions *[INA]* ... 17
People's ICO Condemns Support for Sanctions *[INA]* ... 18
Memorandums to UN Detail U.S. Air Activity ... 18
5-6 Aug Overflights *[Baghdad Radio]* ... 18
9-10 Aug 'Sorties' *[INA]* ... 18
12 Aug Activity *[INA]* ... 18

ISRAEL

Sources Confirm Geneva Hostage Talks To Continue *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 19
Talks With Hizballah on Prisoner Swap Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 19
Major Appeals to Shamir on Hostage Release *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 19
Arens Says Israel To Aid UN on Hostage Issue *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 19
Levi—Prisoner Release Demands 'Preposterous' *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 20
Netanyahu on 'Arrangement' for Return of POW's *[Tel Aviv TV]* ... 20
Israel's Sharon Accuses U.S. of 'Mistakes' *[Hamburg DPA]* ... 21
Jewish Background of Baker's Aides Analyzed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 9 Aug]* ... 21
Jewish Agency's Dinitz Leaves for Moscow *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Aug]* ... 23
'Skepticism' Over Call for Consulate *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Aug]* ... 23

JORDAN

Al-Masri—Nation 'No Alternative' for PLO *[Amman TV]* ... 24
U.S. Department of State Team Arrives for Talks ... 24
Senior Jordanian Official Cited *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Aug]* ... 24
Meeting Held 12 Aug *[Amman Radio]* ... 24
Killer of UNESCO Official Apprehended *[Amman TV]* ... 25
Indonesian Foreign Minister Begins 3-Day Visit *[Amman TV]* ... 25
Meets al-Masri, al-Nusur *[Amman Radio]* ... 25
Received by King Husayn *[Amman Radio]* ... 25
CBJ Seeks Offers for Sale of BCCI's Branches *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Aug]* ... 25
Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Turkey *[cross-reference]* ... 26

LEBANON

'Excerpts' of Letter to Perez de Cuellar *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 27
Al-Hirawi Comments on Hostages, Southern Lebanon *[Paris TV]* ... 29
Report on 'Framework' for Hostage Release Noted *[Beirut Radio]* ... 29
Fadlallah Returns From Consultations in Syria *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 30
Hizballah Wants ICRC To Visit Shaykh 'Ubayd *[AFP]* ... 30

SYRIA

Al-Asad Receives Major's Thanks on Release *[SANA]* ... 31
Foreign Minister on Role in Hostage Release *[London TV]* ... 31
Editorial Criticizes Israeli Stand on Detainees *[Damascus Radio]* ... 31
Israel's 'Evasiveness,' Peace Conference Examined *[Damascus Radio]* ... 32
Israeli Conduct in Region, UN Stand Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* ... 32
Commentary Demands Return of All Territories *[Damascus Radio]* ... 33
Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* ... 34
Meets Foreign Minister al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* ... 34
Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Turkey *[cross-reference]* ... 34

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

'Outspoken' Kabul Paper Banned; Editor Arrested *[AFP]* 35
Prime Minister Discusses Economic Policy *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Deputy Defense Minister Visits Troops 8 Aug *[Kabul Radio]* 36

India

Local BCCI Clients Assured Deposits 'Safe' *[AFP]* 36
Former Union Minister Comments *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Remarks of U.S. Envoy, UK's Kaufman Criticized *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Kaufman Remarks Faulted by Minister *[Delhi Radio]* 37
One Killed, 23 Injured in Jammu Bomb Blast *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Minister on Terrorism, Deportation of LTTE's *[Delhi Radio]* 37
Extension of Treaty With USSR Hailed *[Delhi Radio]* 38
Commentator on U.S.-USSR START Agreement *[Delhi International]* 38

Iran

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[IRNA]* 38
Discusses Ties With Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Meets President Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Discusses Islamic Common Market *[Tehran Radio]* 39
Signs Memorandum, Departs *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Further Reportage on Bakhtiar Murder 40
Pasdaran Accused *[Paris TV]* 40
Ministry Denies Link *[Tehran TV]* 40
Kordestan Denounces Murder *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 40
Envoy Delivers Gorbachev Message to Counterpart *[IRNA]* 41
Habibi on Iraq's Status, Hostage 'Package' *[Tehran TV]* 41
President's 'Silence' on Criticism Viewed *[SORUSH 3 Aug]* 42
Deputy Rahbari Criticizes Hamadan Officials *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Kordestan Radio Reports Clashes Near Oshnaviyeh *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 43

Pakistan

Replacement of Sharif Government Demanded *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Sharif Meets, Talks With USSR's Kozyrev *[Islamabad Radio]* 43
Sharif Promises Repatriation to Nationals *[Islamabad Radio]* 44
U.S. Role in South Asia Peace Process Viewed *[THE NATION 12 Aug]* 44

Sri Lanka

Operation Against LTTE at Elephant Pass Report *[Colombo International]* 45
Minister Comments on Rupees Allocated for Security *[Colombo International]* 45

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Head Views Talks With Bendjedid

LD1208223691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received Mr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League, at his residence in Bousfer, Oran, this morning. My colleague Houari Hassani from Oran has a report on this:

[Hassani] The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Presidential Advisor Mohamed Sahnoun, and Mr. (Mongi Fekih), assistant secretary general of the Arab League. Talks centered on all the issues which interest the Arab nation at present and in the future, including talks on unifying the positions and efforts toward the Middle East peace conference. Just to remind you, Mr. Ismat Al-Majid arrived in Algeria from Tunis yesterday and he will continue his tour of the Arab Maghreb countries including Morocco and Mauritania. When he left the meeting with the president, Mr. Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, gave national radio the following exclusive statement:

[Begin Al-Majid recording] I would like to express my happiness and joy at meeting President Chadli Bendjedid. This is an honor which I am very proud of. I was very keen to express my thanks to the president for his support for my election as secretary general of the Arab League. The truth is that I also listened to the president's instructions regarding the future period, the Arab move to clear the Arab atmosphere, to close ranks and to support the joint Arab action. I felt the president's interest and support for these issues and for all the steps which aim toward this noble achievement. Algeria and the Magreb countries have a responsibility to facilitate the joint Arab action, especially at this fateful period where Arab issues are concerned. We are now dealing with a process which gives hope for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. All of us are eager to achieve this just and comprehensive peace. The truth is that what I have heard today encourages me to think that we are moving along the correct path, and that the whole Arab front is keen on achieving this just and comprehensive peace. The forthcoming period is a stage for consultation and coordination.

God willing, I will leave for Morocco today, and then go on to Mauritania. Following that I will go back to Cairo and we will complete our consultations and contacts. I think that the visit, the meeting was fruitful, important, and beneficial. Thank you. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP Ready To Exchange Prisoners With Israel

NC1308115491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] voiced its readiness to exchange the remains of Israeli soldier Samir As'ad for Arab prisoners detained in Israel. The Front said that the Israeli soldier was a prisoner, but was killed during one of the Israeli air raids on Lebanon.

Reportage on Reaction to U.S. Conference Proposal

DFLP Leader Condemns U.S. Tactics

LD1208120791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] In an interview with the daily EL MOUDJAHID published today, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], Nayif Hawatimah, condemned the conditions in which Washington was trying to convene a Middle East peace conference. He accused the Arab countries that have turned toward Washington's policy of being self-contradictory.

Nayif Hawatimah is expected to hold a news conference at midday in Algiers devoted to the issue of Palestinian participation in the peace conference and the situation in occupied Palestine.

PFLP-GC Rejects U.S. 'Schemes'

JN1208174191 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1654 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The following statement was issued following a meeting of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC]:

The PFLP-GC Central Committee held an extraordinary meeting on Saturday, 10 August 1991. The meeting was devoted to discussing the Arab and international political conditions, and the political moves related to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

With a high sense of national responsibility and concern to achieve Palestinian national unity, the Central Committee discussed the moves and measures to achieve that goal.

The Central Committee stresses the following:

The continued dealing with the proposed U.S. settlement schemes, in light of the current balances of power, will lead to liquidating the Palestinian question and denying and aborting the rights of the Palestinian revolutionary and struggling [mujahid] people. Therefore, the Central Committee affirms its rejection of these schemes.

The Central Committee agrees in principle to the holding of a comprehensive dialogue, attended by all Palestinian nationalist forces, factions, and figures, that aims at achieving comprehensive national unity within the framework of the unified PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PFLP-GC's command is tasked with following up on the contacts and consultations regarding the comprehensive dialogue

and the nature of the political phase with the allies on the Arab and Islamic levels in Syria, Libya, and Islamic Iran, as well as following up and intensifying contacts in the Palestinian arena.

While praising all sincere efforts to achieve comprehensive national unity, based on national principles and adherence to the resolutions of national unanimity, the Central Committee believes any violation of these principles, by opening the doors before bypassing the independent representation, or any other organizational measures, such as calling for a Palestine National Council session before holding a dialogue and achieving political and organizational agreement, will obstruct the dialogue and harm the efforts to achieve genuine and comprehensive national unity.

The Central Committee, which hails our people's heroic steadfastness and confrontation of the Zionist suppression and the growth of their popular revolution inside Palestine, urges political, military, financial, information, and other forms of support to the blessed intifadah to ensure that the intifadah can continue, escalate, and destroy the schemes of capitulation and the attempts to bypass inalienable Palestinian rights or liquidate the Palestinian question.

[signed] The PFLP-GC Central Committee.

U.S. Plan 'Dangerous Maneuver'

LD1208203191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] We now move to world news and a sentence uttered in Algiers: The proposed American formula for peace in the Middle East is a new Camp David. This sentence was voiced by Nayif Hawatimah at a news conference. Here is a report by our correspondent Lotfi Cheriet:

[Cheriet] Mr. Nayif Hawatimah dealt with the current situation and described the U.S. plan as a dangerous maneuver to impose an American-Israeli solution at the expense of the Palestinian people. The U.S. proposals, according to Mr. Hawatimah, do not meet the minimum of Palestinian rights; they contravene the peace we aspire to on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] These talks in plain language mean a new Camp David aimed at normalizing Arab-Israeli relations and at realizing bilateral, partial, and individual solutions. As far as the Palestinian people are concerned, there is no place in these talks for the PLO, nor for a PLO delegation; there is no place for the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people. The U.S. plan proposes to us in very clear language a third force from within the occupied territories comprising personalities from the West Bank and the Gaza sector, excluding Jerusalem and the Palestinians living abroad—excluding 4 million Palestinian refugees; these personalities will be part of the Jordanian delegation. At the negotiating table, only those who have been invited will sit—Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. The PLO has not been invited. The Palestinian people have not been invited. Those who have been invited are Palestinian personalities—a third force as an alternative to the PLO who will sit within the list of names of the Jordanian delegation. He who will speak will be from the Jordanian delegation. The flags that will be placed on the negotiating table will be the flags of the four Arab states and Israel; there is no place for the card bearing the name of Palestine, nor the Palestinian flag. [end recording]

[Cheriet] This formula is regarded by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine as an insult to the Palestinian people. Hawatimah said no to a new Camp David; no to the exclusion of the PLO. The international community should exert pressure toward a peaceful solution. The Palestine National Council [PNC] will deal with bravery and wisdom regarding the situation and the development. The preparatory committee has been set up to bring about dialogue between all factions in preparation for the meeting of the PNC. Matters—as Hawatimah said—will be placed on the table quite clearly.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] The PNC is expected to meet here in Algiers in the middle of next month. Here I would like to say that the fate of this PNC will be decided according to the conclusions that it reaches; in other words, serious preparations should be made for the PNC session so we can give frank and open answers to our people about everything that is going on behind the scene, in darkness, and in closed rooms among Washington, the Arab capitals, and Tel Aviv. We should insist on the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy regarding our people's right to self-determination, including its right to independence, to reject the third force, and to insist that the PLO should sit at the negotiating table as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. [end recording]

PLO Official Criticizes Moves

NC0908182091 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 2

["Text" of interview with PLO Executive Committee Secretary Jamal al-Surani by 'Umar Ahmad 'Umar; place, date not given]

[Text] ['Umar] In your capacity as PLO Executive Committee secretary, how does the PLO view the recent moves for peace?

[Al-Surani] I could permit myself to say that the United States misled us and, consequently, misled our Arab media in general by using the word peace. The correct word is settlement. Peace is a sublime human goal that is valued and cherished by mankind. What kind of peace is it we are after if the United States and Israel are denying the very existence of the Palestinians as a people who

have the right to live and to exercize their rights stipulated under the UN Charter and the World Declaration of Human Rights?

We cannot believe that there is peace while the United States is describing the settlements as merely an obstacle to peace, not that they run counter to the UN resolutions and the international legitimacy. How could we talk about peace while they are denying the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the right to establish their independent state? They are even denying them the right to choose their own representatives. If the Palestinian people were a sports club or a charitable society, they would have had the right to choose their board of directors. The Palestinian people chose the PLO as their sole legitimate representative, and it was recognized in 1974 by the entire world, except by the United States and Israel. Shamir wants to choose the representatives of the Palestinian people himself. Therefore, I say that the PLO's assessment of the recent moves is that the United States is neither serious nor sincere. Whatever the United States is cooking for the Arabs, it will lead to nothing. Whenever Baker goes to Israel he is faced with the construction of a new settlement. In his last tour, he was confronted with four new settlements.

The United States says it is not putting pressure on anyone. But the fact is that they are not just putting pressure on the Palestinians, they are crushing them and denying their very existence as a people who rank 10th among the Arab people in terms of population. The worst thing we are doing now is going along with the U.S-Israeli peace while we are split. Never before have the Arabs gone through a situation that is worse than what they are in now. Also, the United States and Israel have never been in a better position than they are today, now that the cold war is over and the United States is the unrivaled and strongest country in the world.

['Umar] What exactly are the criteria that govern the Palestinian position in the face of the recent changes, as well as the true and declared stands of the parties concerned?

[Al-Surani] There are some Palestinian constants that we in the PLO have clung to and always will. First, there is the question of Palestinian representation, which is the exclusive prerogative of the PLO. If the PLO is excluded, we will end up with groups of Palestinians not represented by anyone: A group in the West Bank, a group in Gaza, a group in Lebanon, a group in Syria, a group in Kuwait, a group in Egypt, etc.... The PLO embodies the unity of the Palestinian people, and anything against it will be against the unity of all of the Palestinian people. Thus, these groups will not have the right to determine the future of each team separately. By accepting this logic, we would be squandering the achievements gained by the Palestinian people for 43 years and handed them over as a gift to the U.S-Israeli scheme.

Thus, all that has been said about a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, a Palestinian delegation within a unified Arab delegation, or the exclusion of the Palestinians of Jerusalem are absolutely not true, and we in the PLO are absolutely not thinking of this. There will only be a Palestinian delegation named and chosen by the PLO.

Second, there will be no relinquishment of the right to Palestinian self-determination or the right to establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Third, there will be the participation of all parties in the negotiations, including the Security Council permanent member states, the neighboring countries, Israel, and the PLO under the auspices of the UN.

Fourth, there will be a halt to the construction of settlements, the removal of those already built, and a halt to the flow of new immigrants.

['Umar] Could the United States embark on a peaceful settlement without the Palestinians' participation, and if so, what would your position be?

[Al-Surani] They need a Palestinian presence at this proposed regional conference, but they want it for the purpose of making concessions, because neither Egypt, nor Syria, nor Jordan has the right to relinquish Palestine. They want to find a Palestinian who agrees to betray his people and nation, but naturally they will not find anyone. As you see, there is not a single Palestinian who did not tell Baker that he is either a representative of the PLO or sent by it. If they want to meet without Palestinian participation, it is their problem and no one could prevent them from doing so, but they will not reach any solution, settlement, or peace.

['Umar] What is the limit at which you will refuse to take part in the negotiations, if they ever get under way?

[Al-Surani] If any of the Palestinian constants of which we have spoken are not observed.

['Umar] How do you assess the recent step made by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to accept the U.S peace proposals?

[Al-Surani] We believe it was an intelligent step that destroyed what hopes the Israelis may have had. Now they are responsible for undermining the opportunity for a settlement.

['Umar] What do you think of the Arab call to lift the Arab economic boycott of Israel in exchange for Israel's halt to the construction of settlements?

[Al-Surani] It is an illogical trade-off from the legal point of view. This is because the boycott is a legitimate right of defense endorsed by the UN Charter and the World Declaration on Human Rights, and it is exercized by the United States and Europe. We are at a state of war with Israel because of its occupation of the territories of the Arab countries, and the boycott is one of the legitimate means of defense. From the the political point of view, Shamir's rejection of the offer has spared us the trouble of discussing and implementing it.

['Umar] There are reports saying that Israel will seek the abrogation of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism and that the Arabs will agree to this in exchange for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

[Al-Surani] The United States has been leading this campaign for years, but it will not be successful because Israel is a racist state by any standard. It is even more racist than South Africa. A black in South Africa is a citizen who does not have full rights, whereas a Palestinian is a displaced person with no homeland and no identity.

['Umar] What do you think is the difference between what is being proposed now and the Camp David Accords?

[Al-Surani] There is only one difference; namely, that Camp David was a separate deal, whereas what is being proposed now is a comprehensive solution or settlement.

Palestinians in Occupied Territories Appeal to UN

LD1208150191 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Hannibal [August], JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—A large number of prominent personalities, unions, and Palestinian organs in occupied Palestine addressed a statement to the secretary general of the U.N. and the permanent members of the Security Council concerning the terrorist measures practised by the Zionist gangs against the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine.

The statement, the text of which was circulated by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Damascus yesterday, called the Security Council and the international community to ("act) for forcing the Zionist bands to respect the conventions and international law of human rights by:

Banning land confiscation; stopping the construction of new colonies; closure of the detention camps; release of detainees; putting an end to the anti-Arab culture policy, the closure of schools, institutes, and universities.

The statement called for the urgent ("necessity of) putting an end to the continued blatant violations of human rights by the Zionists represented in demolition of Palestinian houses, the intensified inspection raids, group detentions, collective punishments, and trees uprooting.

The statement said that the Palestinian people suffer for 40 years from such practices. It reaffirmed that the installation of peace cannot be achieved unless with the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions, the restoration of human rights to the Palestinians, ("the return) of Palestinians, and the establishment of the independent state on the Palestinian soil.

Al-Husayni Discusses Palestinian Peace Plan

LD1308000891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Bahi Barkat managed to telephone Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, a representative of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, this afternoon to get more details on the subject of the efforts currently being made by the Palestinians to take part in the peace conference.

Bahi Barkat asked: Was the eight-point Palestinian plan that you proposed to the United States worked out in collaboration with the PLO? Do you think it will be received favorably?

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni in Arabic, with superimposed French translation] This Palestinian peace plan is the same one as in 1988. We never proposed any other peace plan. We presented it several times during our meetings with the Americans. We asked for an explanation of the political position of the United States. In fact, there were many more than eight points making up a request for clarification from the Americans and not a Palestinian peace plan, but Washington has chosen only the eight points that suit it.

As for the representatives of Palestine, we will not accept any interference in the formation of the Palestinian delegation. The PLO is the only one empowered to appoint such a delegation. Without this, the peace conference will be doomed to failure, because it will not be a peace conference, but a conference of abdication.

[Barkat] What do you think of the attitude of the Hamas movement in occupied Palestine? What are the solutions proposed to unify the Palestinian ranks?

[Al-Husayni] Hamas is one of the Palestinian movements participating in the resistance. We have some political differences. We advocate the liberation of Palestine in the future, in spite of the political differences with the Hamas movement on the nature of the solution. We think that, at the moment, we must avoid any quarrel, apart from differences on the concept of democracy. We hope our problems will be settled in a democratic and peaceful way, which is a difficult path that could meet disturbances along the way.

I am convinced that the democratic spirit will win and that the minority is accepting the decision of the majority. [end recording]

Palestinian Representation at Conference Viewed

West Bank Figures Cited

PM1208155491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Aug 91 p 5

[Fatinah al-Dajani report: " 'Ashrawi Says: Israel Behind Al-Jihad's Statement; Al-Husayni Says: We Will Not Submit List In Advance"]

[Text] London—Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Arab Studies Association in Jerusalem, emphasized that the Palestinian side will not submit to anyone in advance a list of the Palestinian delegation's members and that the parties concerned must wait until the conference is convened. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, professor of arts at Bi'r Zayt University, described the Islamic Jihad movement's threats to the delegation, which met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, as "conspiratorial."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH in London Al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi pointed out that they held talks with David Goer-Booth, director of Middle Eastern affairs at the British Foreign Office, that the talks dealt specifically with the European and British role in the peace process, and that they asked Britain to adopt a position independent from that of the U.S. Administration. They said that the British side expressed understanding of the Palestinian fixed principles, including the East Jersalem question, its representation, the right to self-determination, and a halt to the building of settlements.

'Ashrawi pointed out that the Islamic Jihad movement's threats to the Palestinians who met with Baker "did not emanate from any Palestinian side, and we have reason to believe that they came from Israeli extremists in collaboration with Israeli intelligence. Consultations are currently taking place among the Palestinian parties in the occupied territories in connection with the Jihad's statement. This is because in the past that movement declared its respect for pluralism of views. And I suspect that the statement is conspiratorial." She said that "it is not a matter of a person's or an individual's safety, but a matter of historic responsibility. It is a general national decision which should take account of all views."

Asked whether differences could lead to the torpedoing of the unified Palestinian position, she said: Differences are a healthy thing, and political and intellectual pluralism is an important thing which strengthens the democratic atmosphere. According to my reading of the PLO's position, there is respect for, and willingness to deal with, the majority's decision responsibly and democratically. There are, of course, excesses and oneupmanship."

She noted "the delicate state and seriousness of the present stage," and demanded that all parties "rise to their responsibilities." She also called for "a unified and solidary pan-Arab position that will not allow the United States and Israel to single out any state and that will protect Palestinian rights." She emphasized that "no Palestinian or Arab can engage in negotiations without [including] Jerusalem, and no one would agree to shoulder such a historic responsibility. Anyone who abandons Jerusalem will be abandoning pan-Arab dignity and rights."

She called on all the parties—Arab and international—not to increase the suffering of the Palestinian people, who are standing alone, and to respect their political independence and sovereignty.

On the substance of the talks with Baker, al-Husayni said that the U.S. secretary of state "conveyed to us the Israeli position on the issue of Jersalem's representation, and presented a set of assurances, including an assurance that the nonparticipation of representatives from Jerusalem would not mean that the issue has been settled; that the White House is willing to receive Palestinians (including the negotiating delegation to the peace conference); and that during the meeting it would be announced that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. He also offered to issue a U.S.-Soviet statement clarifying Jersalem's status. He also proposed that Jerusalem be represented by a person who lives in Jordan, but was born in Jerusalem. Al-Husayni pointed out that the Palestinian side was not convinced by these assurances, because they ultimately mean that Israel "has managed to impose its own unacceptable and unreasonable conditions."

He said that the Palestinian and U.S. sides are agreed on Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the question of ending the occupation in return for peace, and that what is being arranged is merely temporary and transitional measures. He added that the points of disagreement concern the U.S. way of dealing with the Israeli side with regard to accepting the Israeli "no" just for the sake of starting the negotiations, instead of exerting real pressure on the Jewish state to accept the principles of international legitimacy.

'Ashrawi pointed out that the Palestinian side requested written guarantees from Baker with regard to the U.S. position on the Palestinian demands, which it specified by interpreting Resolution 242 and the right to self-determination. She cited the need to base the process on the implementation, not just the interpretation, of these resolutions. She also cited the need to determine the time limit for the process and the transitional period. She quoted Baker as saying that he "will instruct the member of his delegation to work with us to write down these assurances."

She interpreted Baker's statement that the Palestinians will lose nothing by their participation in the peace process by saying that the U.S. secretary had expected frustration to prompt the Palestinians to accept any minor achievement that would change the situation that they are experiencing. She added: "But we told him that we are not a defeated people that would accept any interim achievement. We have demands and rights which we will not abandon." He understood that we have inalienable rights and a strong position based on international legitimacy and its resolutions."

PLO's 'Abbas on Representation

JN1208095591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Aug 91 pp 1, 24

["Exclusive" to AL-RA'Y by Safwat Abu-Talib in Tunis]

[Text] Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, head of the International and Pan-Arab Relations Department in the PLO, praised King Husayn's stand supporting

Palestinian rights, and his clinging to Jerusalem and to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

In an interview with AL-RA'Y, 'Abbas adds: We are on the verge of starting a peace march in which all Arab and concerned sides and the Gulf Cooperation Council will participate, in addition to the expected participation of the Arab Maghreb countries. This means that the Arabs have agreed on peace and on heading toward the dialogue table.

He affirmed the Palestinian leadership's concern to clear the Arab atmosphere of the problems created by the Gulf war, because it is not possible for history to stop at this point and for everything to be contained within it; we need to overcome this stage and always keep in mind the lessons we learned.

Regarding the latest results of the peace efforts, 'Abbas said what is now required of the PLO is that it agree on a Palestinian delegation from inside the occupied territories excluding Jerusalem. This delegation, along with a joint Jordanian delegation, will then participate in the conference on condition that the PLO does not participate. The United States knows that without a decision by the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat personally, no Palestinian will accept to participate. This is what President Husni Mubarak pointed out. In fact, he affirmed his rejection of settlements and stressed the need for representing Jerusalem in a peace dialogue, as well as a role for the PLO.

He said that the Egyptian stand is identical to the Palestinian, as well as the Jordanian stand.

At the same time, there is important Arab support for the question of Palestine, represented by King Fahd's affirmation that he clings to Jerusalem, the holiest of holy cities. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also said this during the foreign ministers' meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization in Ankara [as published] which received a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic welcome.

Proceeding from this position, the Arab stand brings good tidings if its scope is extended to form a basic element in meeting the just Palestinian demands to participate in a peace conference since this conference constitutes a major factor in the framework of world peace.

Abu-Mazin noted the positive Palestinian stand toward U.S. President Goerge Bush's initiative. This confirmed to the world the PLO's real concern for peace. It also showed that the PLO did not launch its initiative from the Palestine National Council [PNC] in 1988 haphazardly or tactically.

He affirmed the importance of coordination in the current stage among the Palestinian, Egyptian, Saudi, and Jordanian stands, not excluding Syria, since we all want to coordinate with Syria.

Regarding some Palestinian leaders' demand to convene the national council to form a provisional Palestinian government, he said: In 1988, we decided to form a government. Based on that decision, Yasir 'Arafat became the president of Palestine. Faruq Qaddumi was chosen as foreign minister. However, forming a provisional Palestinian government needs guarantees of Arab and international recognition of such a government so that it would not die before it is born. This is what makes us take our time and not speed up the forming of the government.

Responding to some voices that are demanding a change in the Palestinian leadership, he said this issue does not require discussion because it is in the hands of Palestinian legitimacy represented by the PNC. We formed some committees some time ago to discuss the convening of this council. We are now discussing the date for its convention. However, convening the council depends on whether it is necessary, especially if there is a move toward responding to our just demands for peace.

Abu-Mazin said: We affirm that Palestinian democracy allows dialogue and, in the final analysis, does not hamper issuing a majority decision in the cause of peace. This, by itself, is confirmation that the current Palestinian leadership is the most competent to proceed along the path of serious peace.

Regarding Palestinian-Egyptian relations, he said: We do not accept any mediations in our relations with Egypt or Saudi Arabia. We have met repeatedly and now there is full understanding between us regarding the basic issues of the peace march. I do not believe there is anything that can stop the realization of meetings at the highest levels of leadership.

Regarding his ideas on the scenario of the peace march he said: We know that the Americans are serious in proposing peace. So are the Soviet Union and Europe. We realize we are about to start negotiations through a peace conference which might even be held first. This conference may or may not continue to meet, and if it continues, it may or may not yield results. However, on our part, we cannot be forced, through the peace march, to accept anything that is presented to us. I do not believe anybody can force us to accept anything less than our rights as stipulated by international legitimacy; full withdrawal from the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the removal of settlements that were set up illegally; and our right to self-determination which, in the final analysis, will achieve a confederation with Jordan.

Concerning Jerusalem, he affirmed that all people and Arab leaders cling to Jerusalem. At the same time, half the Israeli people do not accept ignoring Jerusalem, especially the Israeli opposition, headed by the Labor Party.

Regarding the time and place of the conference, Abu-Mazin affirmed that the Palestinian side is ready to participate whenever and wherever the conference is held.

Palestinian, U.S. Teams Meet in Occupied Territories

LD1003082991 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] An official Palestinian source announced in Tunis that, in accordance with an authorization from the PLO, a Palestinian team consisting of Mr. Faysal al-Husayni and Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi last night held a meeting in the occupied territories with a U.S. Department of State team, which included the assistant secretary of state for the Near East, a National Security Council official, and an official from the State Department's political planning department.

The Palestinan News Agency [WAFA] said the Palestinian team stressed the exploratory and procedural nature of the meeting, on the grounds that there is a certain Palestinian view on the place and method of discussing a U.S.-Palestinian memorandum of understanding.

Benyahia, 'Abbas Discuss Palestinian Question

LD1008195891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1725 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Within the framework of constant consultation between Tunisia and the PLO, Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia and Mahmud 'Abbas [Abu Mazin], member of the PLO Executive Committee, today discussed the Palestinian question in light of the latest developments in the peace efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

Reportage on Qaddumi's Visit to Turkey

WA1308113991

For Turkish reportage on the visit by Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the Palestinian state, to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and Foreign Minister Safa Giray, see the Turkey section of the 12 August West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Algeria

Ghozali Confirms State of Siege To Be Lifted

LD1208234191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali affirms that the state of siege now in force in the country will be lifted no later than 5 October. He notes that there are means at hand to get Algeria out of the economic crisis it has been suffering.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-HAYAH published today in London, Ghozali says that the government is working to organize free, honest elections and to change the electoral law, which he describes as unbalanced.

Answering a question about setting a date for legislative elections and the uncertainty of the parties about holding such elections, the prime minister explains that the basic objective of his government is to organize free and honest elections. He hopes that this will be possible in November, reiterating what he said on television before forming the government.

Referring to the economic situation in the country, Sid Ahmed Ghozali thinks that the former government had a negative impact by not taking any steps in the financial field and by distorting the problems. This aggravated the situation.

The prime minister calls for confronting the current financial situation by taking urgent and long-term measures through better exploitation of the oil potential and by solving the debt problem. In this connection, he denies having obtained any French help or encouragement for settling the problem.

Concerning rescheduling the debts and Algeria seeking IMF help, the prime minister says he is trying to avoid going to the IMF for rescheduling of the debts. He notes that all the states that have resorted to the IMF for rescheduling of their debts did not have any other solution.

Ghozali says that his government wants to continue to settle its debts from oil revenues by increasing the production of Algerian fields, as these are not sufficiently exploited. The prime minister adds that the policy of his government is based on giving some companies production rights in return for loans.

Answering a question about the mission of Baker to the Middle East and the proposed peace conference, the prime minister says that he conveyed Algeria's viewpoint to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. This view is that it is not possible to solve the Palestinian issue separately from the PLO. In this framework, he declares that the Palestine National Council will meet in Algeria in September.

Human Rights Leader Cites Unrest Toll

LD1208203291 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] In Algeria the chairman of the League for the Defense of Human Rights reaffirmed today, Monday, that more than 300 deaths occurred and more than 8,000 arrests were made during the repression of the Islamic unrest a few weeks ago.

Today former president Ben Bella for his part came out in favor of a rapid progression to a second republic—these are his words, which were published in an interview granted to the daily EL WATAN.

FIS Lawyers' Comment on Judicial Situation

LD1208225291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The collective of the lawyers for the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] finally held a news conference this morning at the offices of lawyer Ali Yahia Abdennour [chairman of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights]. [passage omitted]

The news conference focused on the fact that the military and civil courts are not capable of trying the accused. Lawyer Ben Tounsi said:

[Begin recording] In my opinion the leaders of the FIS who are currently being detained, first and foremost Mr. Abassi Madani, whom I am defending myself, are political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, and consequently they should be freed and talks should be held with them. So far nothing has been proven and until the courts have given their final verdict the charges against them can not be accepted, in accordance with the basic principle of presumption of innocence. [end recording]

Today the military authorities responsible for the administration of the state of siege let it be known in a communique, and I quote, that the judicial inquiry under way at Blida military tribunal into the activities of Abassi Madani and his group, who are charged with serious crimes and offenses against state security following the tragic disturbances of June 1991, is continuing and will continue without respite until it reaches its normal conclusion in accordance with the prevailing laws. The rigor of the laws of the Algerian state will be applied via all legal channels, despite attempts at disruption by parties involved in the legal proceedings or threats from clandestine agencies and groups. No subversive machinations, no biased or pernicious reports will succeed in affecting the serenity sought during the investigative stage. Only the weight of argument presented via legal channels will prevail before the courts, and this alone, so that the law may retain its force.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Message From Gorbachev

NC1208133491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the current peace efforts in the Middle East and the outcome of the Soviet-U.S. contacts on this issue. The Soviet charge d'affairs in Cairo gave the message to Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa during a meeting today.

AL-AHRAM Reports Oil Exports Exceed Target

NC1208162091 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Aug 91 p1

[Excerpt] AL-AHRAM's correspondent learned that Egypt's crude oil exports for the last fiscal year, which ended in June, totaled $2.535 billion, some 70 percent higher than projected. This improvement over the target figure was the result of the political developments in the Arab region in the past year which had a direct impact on the world oil market.

According to preliminary information on the performance of the oil sector, 53.2 million tons of crude oil, natural gas, and their byproducts were produced during this period. Crude oil production reached 45 million tons, a four-percent increase resulting from the the start of operations at seven new oil wells in the Gulf of Suez and the western desert regions. The new wells are now producing 75,000 barrels of oil per day, and this figure is expected to increase after further development work is carried out. [passage omitted]

Libya

Reservations Expressed on Iraqi Embargo

LD1008093991 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 10, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY— The delegation of Great Jamahiriya expressed its reservation on the draft decision submitted by some countries at the 20th conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, which calls for the continuation of the economic blockade on Iraq which may inflict great harm to the Iraqi people.

The delegation pointed to the standing of Great Jamahiriya on the side of the Kuwaiti people, being an Arab people, when it was invaded by Iraq.

The delegation stressed that Great Jamahiriya will not accept to starve the Iraqi people who suffered the effects of war and internal events. The delegation made clear that Great Jamahiriya will never accept the starving of the Iraqi children and subjecting them to death.

Solidarity Committee Praises Lifting of Barriers

LD1108060991 Tripoli JANA in English 0353 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Aug (JANA)—The Libyan Solidarity and Peace Committee appreciated highly the decision of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to abolish all border controls and lifting all barriers obstructing the movement of transport of the people of the one Arab nation between Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

The committee reaffirmed, in a statement released yesterday, that this decision had enhanced and strengthened the great historical action whereby the custodian of Arab nationalism Col Muammar al-Qadhdhafi demolished the imaginery border points created by the colonialists to divide between the people of the one Arab nation, and to press ahead in the realisation of the Arabs dream in establishing total Arab unity, considered to be the effective response to all plots and conspiracies hatched by imperialism and its agents against the people of the Arab nation.

The statement added: The practical practice of abolishing the imaginary borders and all other barriers that restrict the freedom and movement of the Arab nationals is considered a realisation for the wishes and ambitions of the people of the Arab nation, to approach the day of total Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf.

The statement praised the sincere efforts made in great Jamahiriyah and Egypt towards total Arab unity. It called upon all Arab leaders to act for abolishing all border controls at the imaginery barriers imposed by the colonialists, and which is opposed by the peoples.

The statement reaffirmed that the year 1991 should be a year for the struggle to unify the Arab nation and to establish the Great Jamahiriyah from the ocean to the Gulf, so that it will confront all plots and conspiracies which threaten its existence and its future.

Eytan Proposal for Palestinian State 'Ridiculous'

LD0908212291 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The spokesman for the so-called Zionist agriculture minister, the terrorist Refa'el Eytan, the so-called former chief- of-staff, yesterday suggested the creation of a Palestinian state in the Sinai desert. JANA's political editor commented on this by saying: We are not going to discuss this ridiculous suggestion which shows the Israelis' disdain and their lack of seriousness in finding any solution, but we would like to confirm that after this official statement they no longer have the right to make any claim over Sinai. The editor indicated that for decades the Israelis lied to the entire world by saying that Sinai represented one of their holy sites and this is why they occupied it in 1956 and 1967. JANA's political editor added, they will repeat that in the future for they want to expand at the expense of the Arab nation, using ridiculous claims which are totally illogical, unreasonable, and historically unfounded.

Kuwait

Ministry Denies Report on Capture of Iraqis

LD1208150491 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Aug (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry denied a report today, by a Kuwaiti newspaper saying that security officers have captured five Iraqi soldiers who had been hiding in a primary school in the southern part of Kuwait city.

KUNA cited a responsible source at the Interior Ministry as saying, in the course of his comment on the report, that such an incident, the details of which was published by the newspaper on its front page and which would have attracted attention and raised many questions by citizens, did not take place.

Kuwaiti Amir Interviewed on Iraq's Invasion

NC1308071091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al- Ahmad al-Sabah stressed that no one can forget the stands of President Husni Mubarak and of the Egyptian Government and people toward Kuwait and its crisis. He said there are some who are trying to drive a wedge between Egypt and Kuwait, but the mixing of Egyptian and Kuwaiti blood and the Egyptian soldiers' sacrifices on Kuwaiti soil is a fact which the Kuwaiti people will not forget. He added that in a few weeks he will visit Egypt and the other countries that supported Kuwait and its people.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, the amir of Kuwait revealed the secrets of the negotiations that took place between him and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at their last meeting, during the Arab summit in Baghdad, and also the secrets of the critical last hours that preceded the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Shaykh Jabir said after the conclusion of the summit, during a dialogue between them while on their way to Baghdad airport, Saddam asked to take a third of Kuwait. The amir's reply to this was: This is something that no one, not even the amir of Kuwait, can give.

The amir of Kuwait said in the interview that Saddam Husayn asked that Iraq be allowed to build an oil and a water pipeline between Shatt al-'Arab and Kuwait. He added: I agreed to his request. But he then asked to set up Iraqi facilities, airports, houses, and schools all along these pipelines to protect them. When I asked him how could Kuwait allow the establishment of Iraqi facilities inside its territories, Saddam said: There are no differences between the two countries. You can similarly use the Iraqi military and civilian territories. Do not worry about the question of borders.

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah went on to say that he then asked Saddam about the date of his visit to Kuwait and that Saddam replied he would visit Kuwait after three months and that the amir would know of his presence at the proper time.

Commenting on this, the amir said: Saddam came exactly on time, but with tanks, planes, killing, and perfidy.

On the other hand, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, revealed in his interview with AL- AHRAM the details of the talks at the famous 75-minute meeting in Jeddah, during which the Iraqi memorandum that accused Kuwait of setting up oil facilities and farms inside Iraqi territories was discussed. He said Kuwait offered to send the Kuwaiti and Iraqi interior ministers to inspect and check the area. Kuwait also expressed its readiness to remove any Kuwaiti facilities proven to be inside Iraq's territory. The Iraqis apologized, saying this was merely the information they had received.

He added: When the issue of oil quotas was raised and Kuwait was accused of stealing Iraqi oil, we asked that the matter be referred to OPEC and the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries so as to ascertain who is the thief and who is the victim. 'Izzat Ibrahim apologized and said that this was also unconfirmed information.

Shaykh Sa'd said the Kuwaiti delegation became convinced that the Iraqi delegation was not serious in its stands, and that it only came to Jeddah to waste time. He added that the Iraqis then refused to contine the discussions and left. They asked that each side issue its own statement. The Iraqi forces crossed Kuwait's borders during the night.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent then spoke of what happened immediately after the Iraqi invasion, saying that the defense minister issued orders to fight and repel the Iraqi divisions and that 14 out of 24 Iraqi helicopters were destroyed. He said that the amir of Kuwait refused at first to leave Kuwait and abandon his people to the Iraqi occupation, but he was forced to leave Kuwait by car, and was taken to the al- Khafji area on the Saudi border and from there flew by plane the next day to al-Ta'if. The al-Nuwaysib post where the amir stayed fell to the Iraqi forces a few hours later.

Foreign Ministry on Rejection of French Bill

JN1208132291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1032 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 12 Aug (INA)—Iraq has rejected the French draft resolution in both its first and second versions, because it violates the UN Charter and encroaches upon Iraq's national sovereignty as a free country and as a member of the United Nations.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry today says that the draft resolution "imposes foreign trusteeship on the independent will of the Iraqi people." [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the Foreign Ministry statement which explains why Iraq rejected the French draft resolution, in both its first and second versions:

The Security Council's five permanent member states—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France, and Great Britain—held intensive discussions on the French draft resolution, which calls for allowing Iraq to sell some of its oil on foreign markets to finance purchases of humanitarian and civilian needs, especially medicine and food. The discussions came in light of the report presented in mid-July by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive representative of the UN secretary general. In addition to the specialized international bodies, representatives of three countries—the United States, Great Britain, and France—were also involved in preparing the report. Those were Eliot Richardson, a former U.S. attorney justice and secretary of health; John Moberly, former British ambassador to Iraq; and Jean-Daniel Levi [name as received], French President Mitterrand's adviser. The report warned against an imminent disaster which would threaten the Iraqi people with starvation and epidemics.

After those extensive discussions, which resulted in "expanding" the mechanism of the draft resolution by adding impractical complications, the big five countries asked the Security Council chairman that the second amended version of the French draft resolution be discussed by the other 10 Security Council member states, before putting it to a vote in an official session. Iraq rejected the first version of the draft through a statement from Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn. Likewise, Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi stressed that Iraq categorically rejects the second version of this inhumane draft resolution. In this statement, we are eager to explain in detail why Iraq rejects the first and second versions of the draft.

First, the political reasons:

1. Contrary to the UN Charter, the French draft resolution strongly encroaches upon Iraq's national sovereignty as a free country—a member of the United Nations—and imposes foreign trusteeship on the independent will of the people of Iraq.

2. The French draft resolution takes away from the legitimate Iraqi Government its duties and responsibilities toward its citizens, and cancels its role in running their affairs and supplying them with their daily needs of basic foodstuffs, and health and medical services.

3. The French draft resolution gives foreign countries the right to control Iraq's national resources and allows them to use Iraq's funds and oil revenues as they wish, without the Iraqi people and their national government having any right to use these resources and revenues, or to set priorities for tackling the effects of the unjust 30-state aggression against it.

4. The French draft resolution mixes the humanitarian objective sought by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan's report—which calls for addressing an exceptional and critical humanitarian case—with the suspect and mean political purposes of those who enjoy watching the suffering of Iraqi children, women, and elderly, who have been exhausted by the year-long unjust blockade which has caused them more living hardship despite the fact that the excuses given by the aggressive allies, to justify the imposition of sanctions against Iraq, have been removed.

5. In practice, the French draft resolution undermines the articles of UN Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991, and turns the partial lifting of the blockade for humanitarian reasons into colonialist shackles which confiscate Iraq's right to full sovereignty, violate its internal affairs, steal its oil wealth, and seize its right to handle its own money. This is despite the fact that Resolution 687 allowed Iraq to buy food, medicine, and other civilian needs without any trusteeship or interference.

6. The authors of the ill-reputed draft resolution aim to circumvent the reports of international and humanitarian organizations, which toured Iraq and implicitly revealed the scope of brutal crimes committed against Iraq to destroy its basic pillars, national economic infrastructure, and its main civilian services, within a scheme that has nothing to do with what was called the Gulf crisis. The real aim was to destroy Iraq's capabilities, annihilate the Iraqis, and strike at the symbols of the country's cultural upsurge and comprehensive development to vent the hidden hatred and serve the purposes of international Zionism under the banner of legitimacy and a new world order.

7. After the military aggression of 17 January 1991—as well as the preceding inhuman blockade against Iraq—failed to achieve its political objectives, the Paris government exposed its unprincipled and immoral nature, its political hypocrisy, and its subservience to the U.S.-Zionist scheme when it volunteered to present this draft resolution within the framework of the game of distributing roles with its Atlantic allies.

Very frankly and clearly, the objective of the French draft resolution is to use an economic weapon to create a regime in Iraq that is an agent of imperialism and

Zionism, to replace its progressive national and pan-Arab regime that refused to submit to U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic hegemony over the region's destinies, which is aimed at plundering its resources and abundant oil reserves.

Second, refuting the French draft resolution's reasons and clauses:

1. Everyone thought that the reason for the draft resolution was to deal with the serious decline in the Iraqi people's food and medical conditions, and the grim picture that threatens disaster because of these conditions—as reflected by the report submitted by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the secretary general's executive representative for humanitarian affairs. This fact was noted in introductory paragraphs "B" and "C" of the draft resolution. Paragraph "D," however, jumps to an issue that has nothing to do with the basic topic of the draft resolution; namely, the so-called return of all Kuwaitis from Iraq.

Despite the fact that this paragraph was unnecessarily introduced into the draft resolution, the way it was formulated shows that it runs contrary to the truth. The party that obstructs the return of Kuwaitis from Iraq to their country is the Government of Kuwait itself. During the period from 4 March 1991 until 14 July 1991, the competent Iraqi authorities returned 6,333 Kuwaiti prisoners to Kuwait under supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Furthermore, the Red Cross also registered the names of 3,400 Kuwaitis who are present in Iraq and who wish to return to Kuwait. The Kuwaiti side, however, agreed only to the return of 128 people, and delayed the return of the others under the pretext of checking their identity cards.

As for the so-called "missing," the Government of Kuwait insists on submitting lists of people, who, according to investigations made by the Iraqi authorities, are not confirmed to be in Iraq. Some of them may have died as a result of the coalition's bombardment of Kuwait, and the Kuwait Government has not bothered to ask about these people in other places of the world. It is known that the Kuwaiti community is spread to the four corners of the earth, and, if there was no news from one of them, it is illogical to demand that Iraq bring that person back. On the other hand, what does this subject have to do with a draft resolution that claims to deal with the serious food and medical conditions of the Iraqi people. The objective behind the fabricated listing of the issue of Kuwaitis is to create an additional pretext to maintain the blockade on the people of Iraq.

2. Introductory paragraph "E" of the draft resolution refers to the recommendations included in Prince Sadruddin's report, particularly the proposal to sell oil to finance urgent humanitarian relief. The draft resolution should have accepted that recommendation. Regrettably, the draft resolution was very distant, in form and content, from Prince Sadruddin's recommendations. The draft resolution does not allow Iraq to sell oil, but allows states to buy some quantities of Iraqi oil according to a slow and complicated mechanism. The draft resolution also does not concentrate on humanitarian relief, but gives priority to financing the reparations fund and paying for the expenses of the committee for the destruction of weapons, the expenses of the committee supervising the return of Kuwaiti possessions, and half the expenses of the committee governing border demarcation. As a result, the draft resolution sets conditions and creates expenses which would abort the recommendations of Prince Sadruddin's report.

It is to be recalled that in the wake of the report submitted by the UN Secretary General's assistant Martti Ahtisaari, on 20 March 1991, concerning the health and food conditions in Iraq, the Sanctions Committee lifted the embargo on imports of food and medicine. Iraq has not benefited from the removal of the embargo, however, for lack of foreign exchange. Neither did it benefit from the exemption granted in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 686, which permits such oil exports to cover the cost of humanitarian and civilian imports, on account of the deliberately negative stands taken by the United States, Great Britain, and France at the UN Security Council, that always paralyze the work of the committee and thwart all the noble attempts and calls to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

3. The introductory Paragraph "G," and the operative Paragraph "C" of the draft resolution, referred to the need for the United Nations to intervene in the process of distributing the foodstuffs, medicines, and the materials and equipment vital to the civilian needs of all sectors of the population, using the administration, inspection, and supervisory facilities available to the United Nations.

The drift of the draft resolution is diametrically opposed to the concept of "sovereignty" underscored by the UN Charter. Besides, this is a serious precedent in the humanitarian role of the United Nations, since Iraq uses a fair quota system applying to all Iraqis and non-Iraqi residents in Iraq. Under the system, everyone is entitled to staple foods at subsidized prices. Distribution is carried out according to an integrated mechanism operated by the state, middlemen, and commercial markets rather than a random distribution system. Therefore, the attempt to apply the potentially unsuccessful UN supervision system only sets out to compromise Iraqi sovereignty and bypass its economic, administrative, and organizational establishments, and burdens its administrative costs at the expense of the Iraqi citizen and his private resources.

4. In its introductory Paragraph "C," the draft resolution notes the importance attached by the Council to the humanitarian organizations' access to needy Iraqis, as granted by Iraq. It also stresses the important role of the memorandum of understanding signed by the Iraqi Government and the United Nations on 18 April 1991.

Such an interpretation does injustice to Iraq and its rights, since Iraq is fulfilling its obligations under the memorandum of understanding, and the UN humanitarian program is proceeding according to the agreement without any problems to speak of. At the same time, the memorandum of understanding bears on a program of voluntary aid provided by foreign organizations, whereas the present draft resolution concerns foodstuffs and medicines, the purchase and distribution of which are borne entirely by Iraq.

5. Introductory Paragraph "J" of the draft resolution stipulates that the Council should act in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Charter.

The reference to Chapter 7, which deals with sanctions in a draft resolution that claims to be a humanitarian resolution, exposes anew the suspect intentions the promoters of this draft resolution harbor. It also fully exposes the inhumane nature of the draft resolution, not to mention that it gives precedence in payment to the reparations fund and the settlement of the expenses incurred by the committees formed by the UN Security Council and the UN observers, over the securing of the basic needs of the Iraqi people. This distances the draft resolution from any claim that it is a humanitarian resolution.

6. As for operative Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, it sets the following seven conditions for allowing countries to import Iraqi oil:

A. A condition dealing with a time limit of six months from the date of issuance of the resolution. This condition does not take into consideration the method adopted in international oil dealings, which usually consists of annual contracts and programming the increase of oil every season. [sentence as received] Therefore the purpose of setting a six-month time limit is to upset the Iraqi oil export operation and place obstacles before the marketing of the necessary quantities during that time frame. This could even lead to a reduction in the price of Iraqi oil.

B. A financial condition, that what is imported from Iraq during that time limit should not exceed a certain sum which, as rumored, has been set at $1.6 billion; a sum which is far less than what Iraq needs to finance its importation of humanitarian and civilian needs for a six-month period. The situation becomes even worse when we realize that the resolution apportions 30 percent of this sum for reparations, not to mention the expenses of the committees tasked with destroying weapons and transfering Kuwaiti properties, the humanitarian UN organizations in Iraq, and half the expenses incurred by the border demarcation committee.

C. The approval, by the embargo committee in the UN Security Council, of every oil deal. This means wasting time and preventing Iraqi oil from flowing smoothly and regularly. The committee normally meets once a week, in accordance with a bureaucratic pattern governed by the rule of unanimity, and any of the UN Security Council members who sits on this committee can, with good or bad intentions, hamper any deal for weeks simply by raising questions. This will obstruct the marketing of Iraqi oil.

D. To place the oil revenues direct from the importer into an escrow account in one of the banks that the United Nations will choose, and which will be managed by the UN secretary general. It goes without saying that the expenses for opening this account will also be settled from the funds deposited in it.

E. Paragraph 1 of the draft resolution stipulates that the UN secretary general defines Iraq's needs within 20 days after issuing the resolution. Meanwhile, Sadruddin Aga Khan's report defines the type and quantities of the items necessary to avoid famine and epidemics in Iraq. The draft resolution also stipulates that these exported items should be marked with clear signs to show that these materials are for humane and civilian purposes in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Resolution 687.

F. Paragraph 1 also stipulates that the distribution of the goods imported by Iraq should be placed under the supervision and control of the UN agencies to guarantee their distribution throughout Iraq. This condition does not take into consideration that 18 million people live in Iraq and that these items will be distributed in accordance with ration cards, not as donations. This also requires the presence of hundreds, even thousands, of UN personnel in Iraq. Iraq will have to assume the burden of paying the expenses for the presence and travel of such personnel for an unlimited time in accordance with the draft resolution.

G. The release of assets from the frozen accounts shall be approved by the reparations committee in three equal stages. This will obstruct Iraq's importation of humane and civilian materials, because this will affect payment terms.

H. The draft resolution also stipulates that the reparations fund and the cost of the work of the different Security Council committees and the representatives of the UN agencies, which supervise the distribution of the materials and food, shall be taken from Iraqi oil revenues.

7. Operative Paragraph 1/"C" of the draft resolution stipulates that the United Nations provides management, control, and supervision for humanitarian assistance from other sources.

This text means that the government and nongovernmental humanitarian organizations, as well as the employees of the United Nations and its specialized agencies operating in Iraq—which presented their assistance to the Iraqi people in coordination and cooperation with the Government of Iraq—will stop providing their assistance and will be transferred into an administrative, control, and supervisory organ. The people of Iraq will pay the expenses for all this from their own revenues without obtaining anything from them. In fact, in accordance with this text, the United Nations can, if it so desires, recruit any number of those

from other sources, while the people of Iraq should assume the burdens of paying the expenses for their money and food.

8. In its operative Paragraph 3, the draft resolution states that part of Iraqi oil revenues shall be funneled to the reparation fund and used to pay the expenses of the weapons destruction commission, the return of Kuwaiti property, the presence of UN personnel, and half the expenses of the border demarcation committee. This paragraph runs contrary to the following:

A. Linking the export of an amount of oil, meant to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, to reparations and other expenses, contradicts Resolution 687, especially paragraph 19, which views the needs of the Iraqi people and their ability for payment in light of the country's need to service its foreign debt and the needs of the Iraqi economy. The French draft resolution takes no account of any of these points. Deductions cannot be made with only a partial and conditional lifting of the ban because, even without any deductions, the value of the little amount of exported oil, if endorsed, will not be sufficient to finance the needs of the Iraqi people. [no further enumerations as received]

General Observations:

1. For its part, Iraq showed all required cooperation to meet its obligations under Resolution 687. It fully cooperated with the special committee and the inspection teams to facilitate the implementation of part C of the resolution. To date, most of the tasks mentioned in this part have been carried out. Iraq also facilitated the return of Kuwaiti property. Gold is being handed over now, and preparations are under way to transfer museum articles. The border demarcation committee is also continuing its work in Geneva, with active Iraqi participation. The Security Council is supposed to meet all this Iraqi compliance by lifting the economic sanctions in their entirety. However, for clear political reasons that have nothing to do with Security Council resolutions, international law, or the UN Charter, some Security Council permanent member states oppose this. They never hesitate to declare their objectives when they link the lifting of the ban to changing the political system in Iraq.

Iraq's rejection of this draft resolution proceeds from its assertion that the right solution lies in the complete lifting of the ban and embargo, and also from its assertion that its continuous implementation of Security Council resolutions, and its rapid endeavors to expose the malicious intentions behind such draft resolutions, will lead to a lifting of the blockade.

Iraq has presented several practical proposals to allow international observation of Iraqi exports and imports. One of these provides for the secretary general to name a bank in which Iraq's oil revenues would be deposited. Iraq also undertook to provide to the Security Council immediately copies of all contracts on the sale of oil and the purchase of food and humanitarian needs. Moreover, and for further clarity, Iraq proposed that it sell oil to the permanent Security Council member states and that it purchase its food, medical, and other essential needs from those same countries, so that they can be directly informed of all details.

2. The draft resolution is no more than a calculated attempt to block the road to lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. It also constitutes an attempt, by certain permanent members of the Security Council, to avoid their responsibility in starving the Iraqi people by ignoring Sadruddin Aga Khan's report, and suggesting a complicated and impractical mechanism tantamount to absolute custodianship over Iraq.

In fact, those who proposed the draft resolution want to take the Iraqi people hostage and make them face one of two options: to allow the West to plunder their oil wealth and impose unlimited control over their imports, or maintain the state of starvation and of living on the edge of disaster.

France, and those who support this suspect draft resolution, ignore the fact that the people of Iraq are free, noble, and genuine—they are not a group of beggars who feed on the leftovers of the colonialist foreigners. Therefore, the Iraqis are very well aware of the cheap instigations and the attempt to drive a wedge between them and their militant leadership.

The awareness of our militant Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and all other loyal citizens—and their steadfastness and unlimited readiness to sacrifice will abort the weapon of economic starvation, just like they have aborted the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist armed aggression and crushed the sedition of Iran's lackeys and the subversive agents in the second chapter of the multifaceted and base conspiracy.

The Iraqis, brave fighters and competent builders, will today prove to the whole world that they will win the gamble by their ability to stand fast and persevere without asking for alms from anyone, and they will never submit to the devil's will or humiliating conditions. They will continue their just and devoted struggle under the banner of their wise knight Saddam Husayn, the banner of Allahu Akbar [God is great], which will never fail.

For all these principled, moral, political, and practical reasons, Iraq has categorically rejected the inhuman French draft resolution.

Trade Minister Denounces Draft

JN1308054091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad,12 Aug (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stressed that the French draft resolution is a consolidation of the economic siege imposed on Iraq and an interference in its domestic affairs, and imposes a mandate on it and undermines its national sovereignty.

In an interview with Iraqi television tonight, he said the resolution is an attempt to abort all efforts being made by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and the humanitarian and international organizations that visited Iraq which constitute pressure on the United States and its allies in order to break the siege.

The minister of trade added that the French draft resolution basically aims to starve the Iraqi people by cancelling the ration card system and using cars to throw food to citizens in a humiliating colonialist manner. He pointed out that the ration card system employed by the Ministry has been effective and successful in delivering food to all Iraqis, Arabs, and foreigners alike, regardless of their positions or nationalities and that the distribution has included even the citizens of the countries that are participating in imposing the siege and aggression on Iraq.

He said food was distributed to [figure indistinct] people during July—an increase of 1 million over the past months. This was due to the return of a number of Kurds from Turkey and Iran and the return of Iraqis and Arabs from Kuwait, together with a number of unregistered nomads [word indistinct].

He said the Iraqi people are genuine and generous and that they greatly supported world nations against colonialism. They refuse to receive their food from foreign hands bought with Iraq's money and in such a humiliating manner.

More on Resolution's Rejection

JN1008093191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Words within quotation marks appear within slashlines in INA copy]

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Americans and their evil allies still fear the great Iraqi people and have a thousand fears about them.

In an editorial published today, the paper says: The splendid steadfastness the Iraqi people have demonstrated in the face of the economic blockade imposed on them has begun to exasperate the old and new colonialists, led by the United States. Therefore, they are showing inventiveness in creating formulas designed to inflict further harm on this patient mujahid people in order to humiliate them and bring them to their knees.

The paper points out that the recent draft resolution submitted by France to the UN Security Council was a mixture of rancor and a deliberate attempt to harm the Iraqis in an unprecedented disregard for human values and the United Nations as well, and even for previous unfair resolutions adopted by these tyrannical colonialists.

The paper refers to the decision made by the colonialist administrations to circumvent the report submitted by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan in which he urged a partial lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq to allow it to meet the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. This decision also seeks to squelch the reactions elicited by this report, the paper adds.

AL-JUMHURIYAH reviews the unfair conditions contained in the evil French draft resolution, saying that the draft resolution allows Iraq to sell a quantity of oil worth $1.6 billion for only six months if the following conditions are met:

1. Iraq shall not receive a single penny of the value of its sold oil. Instead, the value of the oil sold will be deposited in a foreign bank account, withdrawals from which are controlled only by the UN secretary general.

2. The following amounts will be deducted from the $1.6 billion:

3. [Number as received] Reparations for Kuwait and Kuwaitis in unspecified amounts estimated by some sources at $600 million to pay for expenses of the inspection committees and also for the committees tasked with demarcating Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders.

3. [Number as received] After these deductions are made, the UN secretary general will decide the types and quantities of the foodstuffs and medicines Iraq needs. The UN secretary general will order that the values of these quantities be withdrawn from the aforesaid account and paid.

4. Each oil deal Iraq concludes during the six month period, including quantity and price, must be submitted to the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee for approval.

5. The United Nations, "rather than the Iraqi Government" intends to supervise and control the distribution of foodstuffs and medicines among the people inside Iraq. Iraq must pay for this.

6. Iraq must submit monthly reports on its possession of foreign currency and gold to the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee.

7. Iraq should also repatriate the Kuwaitis it is detaining. "Of course, we do not have any prisoners. All prisoners were handed over on time."

Moreover, the paper states that the new draft resolution contravenes the provisions of Resolution 687, saying: The aforesaid resolution indicates that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, especially with regard to foodstuffs, medicines, and humanitarian supplies, will be lifted once the cease-fire goes into effect and Iraq accepts Resolution 687, and that Iraq will be asked to pay reparations after the economic blockade is completely lifted. Contrary to this, the new draft resolution seeks to make deductions for reparations and other expenses from the value of this very small amount Iraq will be allowed to export. This leaves Iraq with less than half of the $1.6 billion amount to be used by the United Nations to purchase for it food and medicines to be

distributed among the Iraqi people. Also, "Iraq is asked to pay the United Nations for the administrative work entailed here."

The paper explains the reasons for Iraq's categorical rejection of this suspect draft resolution, saying: This draft resolution would render the Iraqi people refugees in their own country, receiving charity from the United States, Britain, and France through the UN Security Council—the charity earned from the sale of Iraqi oil. These countries would decide the oil quantities to be sold, the buyers, the prices at which they are sold, the commodities to be purchased, the seller from which they would purchase these commodities, as well as the prices at which these commodities are to be purchased. Furthermore, these countries would supervise the storage and distribution of these commodities among 18 million Iraqis at the Iraqis' expense. That is, Iraqis would have to pay salaries and expenses for the UN agencies which would operate in Iraq for this purpose.

AL-JUMHURIYAH wonders: Is it possible to conceive of a more serious infringement of Iraq's sovereignty on its territory than this? Can there be a greater humiliation for the Iraqi people, a greater mortgage of their will, a greater theft of their wealth, and a more serious and determined pursuit of unjust and oppressive colonialist policies against them?

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: O great Iraqi people, rest easy. After all this savage bombardment which continued for 42 days, during which the evildoers dropped more than 88 tonnes of explosives on you and conducted more than 110,000 air sorties; after weeks of sabotage, theft, pillage, rape, and other horrendous crimes perpetrated by the hireling agents; and after more than a year of an all-out economic blockade, the Americans and their evil allies fear you and have a thousand apprehensions about you. Through further patience and steadfastness and through the reconstruction endeavor, you will avenge your martyrs and bury this conspiracy. You and Saddam Husayn were born for such a challenge. It is God who grants victory and success.

Speaker on Talks With Kurds, Draft Resolution

JN1108094491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has affirmed that the dialogue currently under way between the government and the Kurdish parties' delegation is proceeding in the right direction and that it is permeated by a spirit of brotherhood and an atmosphere of understanding and seriousness aimed at achieving the desired objective.

In a statement in today's edition of AL-JUMHURIYAH, Sa'di Mahdi Salih added that the interlocutors made great strides along the path of solving all existing problems in such a way that enhances the future march of the homeland; consolidates the unity of the Iraqi people, their Arabs and Kurds; and denies Iraq's enemies, be they in the region or outside of it, a chance to exploit these problems to weaken Iraq and achieve their evil objectives against Iraq, the Arab nation, and the entire region.

Salih pointed out that those conducting the dialogue do not view themselves as two separate teams, but rather as a single working team whose main noble objective lies in drawing up useful solutions to a national problem that has plagued us for a long time. He added: The spirit that prevailed during the dialogue has been fraternal, constructive, and positive. As for the atmosphere in which the talks were conducted, it has been one marked by understanding and seriousness aimed at achieving the objective. We have strong hopes that these efforts will be crowned with success and that the desirable results will be attained shortly, God willing.

The National Assembly speaker referred to the draft political parties law, the discussion of which was completed by the assembly. He said that the draft law will be legislated shortly after some amendments are incorporated into it with a view to developing it and removing its weaknesses.

The Iraqi National Assembly speaker condemned the so-called French draft resolution which shows flagrant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs under the guise of the UN Security Council. He added: The United States and those revolving in its orbit are determined to maintain the blockade on Iraq. The strongest evidence we advance here is the recent French draft resolution that embodies the old colonialist mentality that has not yet vanished. This draft resolution reflects a blatant interference in the domestic affairs of a sovereign UN member state.

On the Revolution Command Council's decision to grant amnesty to Iraqis inside and outside the country, the Iraqi National Assembly speaker said: This decision creates a healthy and practical climate for political forces in Iraq and nationalist figures inside and outside Iraq to contribute to the country's political life, to develop and modernize the country, and to remove the effects of the 30-state aggression. This decision was meant to create a proper climate for all of us to develop the country and to help steer it toward the shores of safety and peace.

Imprisoned South African Citizen May Be Freed

MB1208142691 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Iraq has reportedly agreed to release a South African citizen, Mr. Ian Richter. Mr. Richter has been held in an Iraqi prison for the past five years for alleged corruption.

Mr. Rod Douglas, Mr. Richter's brother-in-law, told our Cape Town news staff that Mr. Richter's wife, Shirley, had consulted with UN Secretary General Dr. Perez de Cuellar, who is due to visit Iraq later this week.

Minister on Reported Release

JN1208204891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1959 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Aug (INA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has commented on statements pertaining to the British prisoner Ian Richter.

He told INA: It stands to reason that only when the British Government shows understanding of the rights of the people of Iraq and the Iraqi assets and banknotes printed in Britain will the constitutionally authorized Iraqi authorities pardon the prisoner.

British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd had told the Sky Television Network that, subject to certain conditions, Britain might unfreeze some Iraqi assets if Iraq freed Ian Richter—the British businessman jailed for five years on a bribery charge.

Al-Sahhaf said that when the British minister expresses a desire that the British prisoner, who was sentenced after the benefit of due process, be freed on humanitarian grounds, appreciated by us in Iraq, we would point out that 18 million Iraqis have not been sentenced by a proper court of law. The Iraqis have been denied the most basic staples of life and their British-held assets.

He said that the funds and deposits and Iraqi banknotes printed in Britain, and necessary to fulfill the country's requirements of food, medicine and other humanitarian materials, by right belong to Iraq as granted by UN Security Council Resolution 686 and the Sanctions Committee resolution.

ICO Factfinding Mission Requested for Iraq

LD0908171191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] A delegation from SAIRI [Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq] participated actively in the 20th foreign ministerial session of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization]. According to our correspondent in Istanbul, the SAIRI delegation separately met and held talks with representatives of Islamic countries during the course of the ICO session. A statement was submitted by SAIRI to the representative delegates of Islamic countries. The statement, points to the fact that the ruling Iraqi regime has not held any sort of elections with the free participation of the people during the past 23 years. It also calls on the ICO to despatch delegates to assess the situation of the oppressed Iraqi people, especially to the south of that country.

Paper Lambastes Islamic Conference Resolutions

JN1108104491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0619 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH strongly condemns the Istanbul conference resolution which calls for maintaining the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

In an editorial published today, AL-QADISIYAH, organ of the Ministry of Defense, wonders: Is it reasonable to see a forum that has something to do with Islam issue a resolution calling for continuing the starvation of a Muslim people with a population of 18 million, including their women, elderly, children, and sick people? The paper answers: Yes. A calamitous and scandalous event has taken the form of a resolution issued by the so-called foreign ministers' conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] recently held in Istanbul. The countries that adopted this shameful resolution are not even bothered by being charged as being an agent of the ugly American. This is because their agentry is crystal clear and too strong to be refuted by counterclaims and counterarguments. To maintain the conspiracy against Iraq and its people, these countries have even shown a willingness to sacrifice the credibility that should have been associated with a forum that has the word Islam in its name.

The paper affirms that this resolution, which brought disgrace to its authors, the parties to the American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance, and also to the regimes that bowed to pressures, bribes, and selfish interests, and consequently secured its passage, is the public obituary of this forum, deviating from its true path. The paper adds: This forum has become a mere political tool serving U.S. interests. Petrodollars are now playing a decisive role in buying positions, momentum, and votes.

The paper points out that Iraq, despite prior knowledge of the big games being played behind the scenes in the conference, and in spite of the promises, temptations, and pressures used by its members, has never entertained the idea, up to the last moment, that this forum would come up with a disgraceful resolution that contravenes all the humane and ethical values of Islam. The paper adds: Now, it is clear that the agent and subservient regimes, as well as those that offer their policies for sale in the American slave market have managed to butcher the values of Islam and humanity in the interest of the new world order which allows the United States to dominate the world and impose its custodianship on peoples.

AL-QADISIYAH says that the strongest words of protest cannot express the indignation and wrath that engulfed the Muslims of the world when they heard this scandalous resolution which insolently called for continuing the starvation of the faithful Iraqi people who carried the banner of Islam, led its gathering honorably against the forces of the infidels and deception in the "Mother of Battles," and paid the price for this jihad in the form of immense sacrifices made during the brutal 30-state aggression.

The paper adds: The consolation in this purposeful debacle which tarnishes the image of Islam is that the regimes that sought to secure the passage of this resolution, as well as those that helped pass it do not represent their Islamic peoples. They are mere authoritarian and corrupt regimes that feed on the crumbs of American aid

and also on the crumbs of oil shaykhs. These regimes have mortgaged themselves to the satanic dollar to advance their own interests, rather than those of their peoples.

The paper stresses that this organization which met under the name of "Islam" should have sought to redress the wounds caused by the American occupation of holy Mecca, the Muslims' qiblah [direction that Muslims face while praying], and the great Prophet's tomb as well, and also by the outrageous aggression against Iraq, rather than consecrate enmity and divisions among its members, as this would exacerbate the ordeal being experienced by the Islamic nation as a result of the conduct of corrupt rulers and their subservience to the American satan. We are well aware that this resolution will not change anything regarding the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, because this suspect "ICO" has no significant role in international politics. The moral element that could have been provided is what concerns us about this organization. Regrettably, this moral element came to support the American current and its new colonialist order this time instead of seeking to enhance and vindicate the values of Islam and its tolerant injunctions.

The paper affirms that the countries that hatched this conspiracy have not only targeted the Iraqi people, but also the reputation of Islam. The paper affirms that the positions of these countries, which are hostile to Iraq and the Islamic nation, have not taken Iraq by surprise, as their records, even on the personal level, are replete with practices that distort the image of Islam and Muslims. Hence, mujahid Iraq will not be gravely disturbed by the arrows of savagery and deception launched by these countries. This disgraceful resolution will not shake its faithful and patient people who will remain in the forefront of the faithful gathering and continue their jihad to purge Islam of the filth of these corrupt regimes.

People's ICO Condemns Support for Sanctions

JN1108133691 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 11, INA—The Secretariat General of the People's Islamic Conference Organization condemned the resolution of the Islamic countries foreign ministers [at the Istanbul meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization] on carrying on economic sanctions against Iraq, as null and void and unjust in addition to its being illegal and not related to the Moslems religion.

An appeal by the [People's] ICO Secretariat General addressed to the leaders of Islamic organizations, intellectuals and religious men said the decision was adopted under the fear and intimidation of the United States and its allies and that all Moslems are called to nullify and abort this resolution.

The appeal added that tyrants in the Security Council took the decision of imposing economic blockade on Iraq out of their hate toward Iraq, its leadership and people and that the Islamic countries foreign ministers who met in Istanbul succumbed to the evil intentions of those tyrants and adopted their decision.

Memorandums to UN Detail U.S. Air Activity

5-6 Aug Overflights

JN0908152191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] American aircraft have again been violating Iraq's airspace, engaging in reconnaissance and provocations. According to a memorandum submitted to the UN secretary general by Iraq's permanent representative, the Americans mounted 10 sorties in three formations of two aircraft each, plus four single-aircraft sorties over 5-6 August 1991. The enemy overflights were mainly in Mosul, Dahuk, and al-'Amadiyah flying at altitudes of 4.5-17 km and at speeds of 600-900 km per hour. At 1435, the memorandum noted, a formation of two aircraft broke the sound barrier over Mosul.

9-10 Aug 'Sorties'

JN1108133191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 11 Aug (INA)—U.S. aircraft have renewed their violation of Iraqi airspace.

In a protest memorandum delivered today to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent UN representative noted that the provocative U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace on 9-10 August totaled 17 sorties, divided into eight two-plane formations and one single sortie.

He added that the aircraft flew at 700-800 km per hour at altitudes ranging between 4.5 to 7 km, and centered their activity over Mosul, Irbil, and Dahuk.

12 Aug Activity

JN1308074991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2028 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 12 Aug (INA)—U.S. aircraft have continued to violate Iraq's airspace for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraq's airspace today from across the Iraqi-Turkish border, and that the enemy flights totalled 25 air sorties, made up of 11 two-plane formations and three individual sorties.

He noted that the enemy flights concentrated over the areas of Mosul, Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, Zakho, and Dahuk at a speed of 600 kms per hour and at altitudes ranging between 5.2 and 6 kms.

Sources Confirm Geneva Hostage Talks To Continue

TA1308102591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] UN Secretary Perez de Cuellar said that an Israeli delegation will arrive in Geneva tomorrow to discuss Israel's answer concerning the contacts for the release of hostages. Political sources in Jerusalem confirmed that the report is correct to our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 13 August adds that "this morning, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee firmly rejected demands from international elements for a unilateral Israeli gesture of releasing hostages without any guarantees regarding the release of Israeli POW's as part of an overall deal. The international community should insist that Israel be given authoritative information on the fate of the Israeli POW's and MIA's at once, the Knesset committee declared."]

Talks With Hizballah on Prisoner Swap Denied

TA1208164791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Military sources today denied reports that Israel and Hizballah have been holding negotiations on a prisoner release. The sources reiterated that Israel would be willing to accelerate the negotiations for the release of the Western hostages if it receives information about its POW's in Lebanon. The sources added that Israel has no intention of giving in to pressure to release Shiite detainees being held in Israel. Israel foresees increasing pressure for a unilateral gesture.

In any event, there is as yet no evidence about the Israeli POW's and MIA's. The sources reaffirmed that Israel would consent to take part in a prisoner swap only if its own POW's and MIA's were included.

Reacting to the report quoting a Hizballah source saying that Hizballah would allow International Red Cross [IRC] officials to visit the Israeli POW's if Israel first allows the IRC to visit Shaykh 'Ubayd, Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said: If the report proves to be true, Israel has always said that if the IRC is allowed access to its soldiers, Israel would not object to allowing the IRC access to the Lebanese detainees held in Israel.

Major Appeals to Shamir on Hostage Release

TA1208183091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] British Prime Minister John Major appealed to Israel, asking that it free Shiites incarcerated in Israel in a one-sided gesture, thereby contributing to the current atmosphere and enabling the release of hostages. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik learned that this request was expressed in Major's letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

As far as is known, Shamir has not responded to the British request yet. In any event, the prime minister will stress that it is Israel's unequivocal stand that it must first receive firm information regarding our MIA's and POW's, and only after that will a deal be possible.

Arens Says Israel To Aid UN on Hostage Issue

TA1208191191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky—live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] Lubrani returned from Geneva tonight; he brought back a letter. Does it contain anything new?

[Arens] The news is that the UN secretary general is now in the picture. He received an appeal from Hizballah, and he understands the problems of all the hostages, including the dilemma of Israel, which has seven POW's and MIA's. I understand that he will try to achieve a comprehensive deal that will include everyone.

[Shlonsky] Were you satisfied with the letter's wording? Did it refer in any way to the Israeli POW's and MIA's?

[Arens] As a matter of fact, the letter was very general. It did, however, offer a new element: a desire to make a deal.

[Shlonsky] There is a feeling that international pressure is being exerted on Israel; we have just heard UK Prime Minister John Major and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Is it the right time for Israel to make some sort of a gesture, such as the release of Shiites held on political grounds, or something similar to that? Perhaps we could allow the International Red Cross to visit Shaykh 'Ubayd?

[Arens] Look, we are familiar with Hizballah and we know the kind of people we are dealing with. We know that those people are not swayed by gestures. In fact, we are holding on to possibly the only significant card we have: the Shiite terrorists. I think it would be quite correct to say that the recent release of hostages was due to the fact that we are still holding the Shiite terrorists here. I believe we should wait for a comprehensive deal that would include our POW's and MIA's as well. I find it hard to believe that anyone can expect us to just disown our hostages.

[Shlonsky] I understand that what you are saying is that at this point, as long as there has been no sign of life from our POW's and MIA's, Israel will make no move.

[Arens] I think such sensitive negotiations should not be conducted on television. The UN secretary general is apprised of the facts, and we will assist him to the best of our ability. We hope and expect him to come up with results.

[Shlonsky] Both LE MONDE and English Sky Television reported today that negotiations were under way between Israel and Hizballah. Can you either confirm or deny this?

[Arens] I can deny the report. Nothing like that is or was going on. At present, we pin our hopes on the UN secretary general.

[Shlonsky] What does Israel intend to do now? Lubrani has returned, the letter is here, but you said it contains no reference to the Israelis. What now? Are we going to wait or act?

[Arens] Uri Lubrani briefed me upon his return. He told me that he apprised the UN secretary general of our positions and gave him all the data we possess. We act on the assumption that the UN secretary general will make use of the data.

[Shlonsky] You sound optimistic. Despite everything, it cannot be denied that something happened in the past few days; namely, Hizballah is nearing the point of negotiations. Is that the reason for your optimism, or do you know something else?

[Arens] As you know, I think of our hostages' families first and foremost; they have suffered for so many years that I hesitate to arouse hopes that may or may not come true. The fact that this radical Shiite organization says it is ready to make a deal and that the UN secretary general is in the picture gives rise to hope.

[Shlonsky] Who, in your opinion, holds the key: the Iranians or the Syrians?

[Arens] It is hard to say. We do know that when the Syrians and the Iranians want hostages or prisoners released, they get them released. The hostages and prisoners had been seized on Lebanese territory, which is controlled by Syria, and are believed to be held on Lebanese soil, which is controlled by Syria. Hizballah is an organization financed and commanded by the Iranians. We have seen in recent days that hostages are released when the Iranians and the Syrians want them to be.

[Shlonsky] If everything is so obvious, why are the UN secretary general and other Western leaders exerting a certain amount of pressure on Israel? Yesterday, even Bush made an accidental remark in that same vein.

[Arens] It is a matter of perceptions. Evidently, we have much better knowledge of the Middle East than those who live far from the Middle East.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much, Mr. Arens.

[Arens] Thank you.

Levi—Prisoner Release Demands 'Preposterous'

TA1208144291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that in the terrible world in which we live today it is clear that we will have to pay a price for the release of our prisoners. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a meeting with journalists while vacationing in the north Levi said: When Israel knows for certain that the release of our prisoners is within reach, we will consider the price. He added that as early as this evening Foreign and Defense Ministry teams will submit a report that will enable the ministers to ascertain whether there is a basis for progress in the negotiations. Levi described as preposterous the demands of some countries for unilateral gestures by Israel.

Netanyahu on 'Arrangement' for Return of POW's

TA1208153791 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Rafi Reshef in the studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Reshef] Is Jerusalem disappointed about the contents of the letter from the Islamic Jihad?

[Netanyahu] I do not know what the expectations were, but the letter does not contain anything to make us feel encouraged.

[Reshef] What did we actually expect? Some sign of life?

[Netanyahu] Definitely. The entire country and the anguished families want to know what has happened to our boys. We have not received any sign of life for a very long time from our seven boys. I would like to emphasize that we have not received even one sign of life from them in the last three days, as Hizballah has been releasing hostages through the initiative of the governments of Syria and Iran. Before we take any action whatsoever we will not only have to receive a sign that they are alive, but also get unequivocal information about the fate of all seven and offered an arrangement for their return to Israel, alive I hope. [passage omitted]

[Reshef] The Voice of Lebanon quoted a Hizballah source as saying that if the International Red Cross [IRC] is allowed to call on Shaykh 'Ubayd in Israel, it would allow IRC officials to visit our POW's in Lebanon. Could such a proposal be accepted by Israel?

[Netanyahu] The question is who the Voice of Lebanon is and who approves the reports it broadcasts. Those who need to reach us can do so through other, more specific channels. If we received such a proposal, we would examine it.

[Reshef] If I understand you correctly, you are saying that we have a long way ahead of us, that we will yet have to resist pressures, and that this will be a nerve-wracking process.

[Netanyahu] I am not affected by pressures. I think that the situation has changed somewhat. We will insist on getting the minimum we deserve, namely: information and, ultimately, the release of our men in exchange for the assets we are holding. Otherwise, we will take no action; I promise you that. [passage omitted]

Israel's Sharon Accuses U.S. of 'Mistakes'

LD1008075791 Hamburg DPA in German 0128 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Hamburg, 10 Aug (DPA)—Israel's Minister of Construction and Housing Ari'el Sharon has accused the United States of having made "tragic and spectacular mistakes" in the Middle East which cost "tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of human lives" over the last three decades. In an interview with SPIEGEL, which appears in the magazine's latest edition and which was prereleased to DPA in a news version, Sharon, well known as "the bulldozer," criticizes Washington's alleged long-standing indifference to the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Husayn.

"Already in the middle of the 1980's we told the Americans that Iraq—with German aid, too—was producing chemical weapons of mass destruction," Sharon said. But this did not bother the Americans because only Iranians and Kurds had been killed with them....

Sharon fears that the Middle East peace conference, planned for October, could degenerate into an "international court martial" to which Israel would be driven "like cattle to slaughter".

Jewish Background of Baker's Aides Analyzed

TA0908163991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 9 Aug 91

[Shim'on Schiffer commentary: "Baker's Jewish Flank"]

[Text]Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's entourage calls them "Baker's little Jews [yahudonim]." Dan Kurtzer, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs; Dr. Aaron Miller, from the State Department's Policy Planning Staff; and Edmund Hull, from the National Security Council, arrived in Jerusalem on Wednesday to finalize the "memorandum of understanding" with Israel in anticipation of the peace conference.

Kurtzer and Miller are Jews; Hull is not. They are holding talks with a team headed by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, which are aimed at formulating the commitments the United States is to give Israel to allay its fears on the eve of the conference. In meetings in Jerusalem, the three will cautiously probe the possibility that Israel may agree to another concession on the Palestinian representation issue.

Kurtzer and Miller, as well as Dennis Ross, the aide always found near Baker, and Richard Haas, who is in charge of the Middle East in the National Security Council, are regarded as "suspect" by Jerusalem decisionmakers. U.S. Jewish leaders share that opinion of them. The Israelis prefer to negotiate the future of the territories with "goyim," with whom there is no sentimentality. Henry Kissinger, it will be recalled, was regarded with the same suspicion. He was always suspected of being capable of betraying Israel's vital interests—only to prove that he was an impartial mediator.

All the Jewish advisers—who teem around Baker and show him the way through the Middle East mazes—started from the same spot to achieve what they have. Their families had discussed Israel, its struggles, and its position in the Middle East. They went to Jewish summer camp and to Jewish schools, and they visited Israel in their youth. Later they studied Middle East affairs and arrived at the State Department in the hope of making it to Israel in an official capacity.

Such was Dan Kurtzer's route. He grew up in an observant family and received an Orthodox education. After attending Yeshiva University in New York, he landed at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. During his term in Cairo, Kurtzer received Israeli guests in a sukkah he had set up in his residence; his Israeli friends took care to supply him with kosher chickens on his every visit.

Aaron Miller followed a similar track. He is a son of wealthy parents from Cleveland, who often donated to Israeli causes. During a period following the Yom Kippur War, Miller and his family lived in Israel. Both have relatives in Israel. After the first Scud missiles fell on Tel Aviv, Kurtzer came to Jerusalem in a delegation headed by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. Upon arrival, he telephoned all his elderly relatives in Tel Aviv to find out how they were doing.

It has been written about Kurtzer that had he immigrated to Israel, he would have certainly joined Peace Now. Future authors of books about U.S. policy in the Middle East in the 1980's will undoubtedly reveal that Kurtzer was in the center of events. Possibly more than any other U.S. State Department official, Kurtzer has been instrumental in promoting the goals of the Palestinians and in raising their afflictions to the center of the U.S. policymakers' agenda.

George Shultz, Baker's predecessor, promoted Kurtzer, placing him at the head of a group of speech writers that shaped the American pronouncement on the Middle East. "Territories for peace," the slogan that became a visible foundation of U.S. policy, was first put in writing by Kurtzer. There was more than a little anger, and a lot of frustration, behind those words.

Already in September 1988 it was obvious to Shultz that Shamir was not about to respond to the U.S. initiative designed to promote a settlement with the Arabs and the Palestinians. Dan Kurtzer believed that Shamir was the obstacle. In mid-September 1988 Shultz was invited to address the Washington Institute for Middle East Policy—an organization financed by the U.S. Jewish lobby. Kurtzer was asked to prepare the address, which was to remain a landmark even after Shultz's departure: "The goal of a peace agreement between Israel and its neighbors will be achieved through negotiations based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which require the exchange of territories for peace."

Shultz sent the speech, which was written by Kurtzer, to Shamir and Arens. At the Prime Minister's Office, Kurtzer's fingerprint was immediately recognized. The speech also said: "The Palestinians' political rights must be recognized and discussed. The Palestinians deserve more than the satisfaction of their basic everyday needs. They want and deserve to participate in the political decisions and to influence their fate."

Had Kurtzer been asked, and had he been interested, he would have retorted in his defense that he had been fair to Israel in having included in the speech a clause stating that "Israel will not negotiate the return to the partition lines or to 1967 borders, but it must be ready, as stated in Resolution 242, to withdraw from territories occupied in the 1967 confrontation."

Later, a new secretary of state took office, and Kurtzer went to work for James Baker. It was at that time that Dan Kurtzer's poor relations with Jerusalem's political bureaus reached a new climax—and this time, too, it was he who wrote the speech that provoked a storm. The annual conference of AIPAC [American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee], the Jewish-Israeli lobby, is the yearly stage for a demonstration of tremendous power. About one-third of the senators and congressmen show up. James Baker was invited to make the central address. In the past, the texts of the U.S. secretaries of state's speeches were known in advance. They announced absolute support for Israel's prosperity and security; a sort of American oath of allegiance to Israel.

Kurtzer, however, chose that forum to convey a different message. "Israel must abandon the dream of Greater Israel," said Baker's speech. The remarks caused a commotion among the conference participants and served as proof to anyone who still required it that the Bush-Baker administration was playing the game with Israel differently from their predecessors.

A Jewish community leader, who visited Jerusalem this week, told of having met Kurtzer shortly after that address. "We had a difficult conversation," he said. "I told him: Your children will bear the consequences of the Israeli policy you are encouraging." Kurtzer replied that he had read the speech to his mother, and she had not found anything wrong with it.

The Jewish steamroller was put in action. Baker found himself on the defensive, and it is a well-known fact that there is nothing a tough attorney from Texas detests more than such a position. The pressure was exerted by senior senators, heavyweight donors, and Jews with contacts in the Republican Party. Seeking to defend himself, Baker revealed that Kurtzer was the author of the speech. Baker claimed that he had not been aware of the charged significance of the expression "abandoning the dream of Greater Israel."

One may assume that Kurtzer and his colleagues Ross, Miller, and Haas are convinced that they are helping Israel to save itself from itself, and that they understand this country's needs no less than their Israeli friends. In talks with his Israeli acquaintances, Kurtzer usually "indignantly rejects" the criticism leveled at him by Shamir's aides.

An Israeli journalist who arrived in Washington and wanted to start on his job as soon as possible asked a colleague where he could find the makers of Israel-related policy. The answer was not surprising: in a synagogue, or in a Jewish community center, on weekends. It is there that Kurtzer, Miller, and Dennis Ross weekly confront criticism leveled at them by their neighbors on the synagogue bench.

I first heard Dr. Aaron Miller shortly after the November 1988 presidential elections. He was invited to appear at a synagogue in northwest Washington and to speak about the new administration's Middle East policy. Miller—slim, tall, and smiling, the son of a rich Cleveland family—arrives at the State Department in an expensive Porshe. He told his synagogue audience that his role was to ensure that Baker does not fail where Shultz had. He said that the new administration would interfere in Middle East affairs only if the conditions were ripe and if the parties appealed to the United States to serve as an accelerator toward a settlement.

For Baker, who has no Jewish friends, his Jewish aides are a kind of a "charm." Baker cannot, however, be accused of being so cynical as to select his aides on that basis. During one of Shamir's visits to Washington a meeting was held at Blair House, the White House's official guest residence. Elyaqim Rubinstein looked around and counted those present. Eight out of 10 people in the room were Jews: four Israelis and four Americans. "Almost a minyan," muttered Rubinstein.

Baker's aides hate this spiel. They are convinced that some Israelis wish to harm them personally. Being pinpointed as Jews does not enhance their status; behind their backs, they are mentioned in State Department corridors as outsiders [preceding word in English], as people who do not belong.

Last weekend, Dan Kurtzer and Aaron Miller again sat opposite Yosi Ben-Aharon, Elyaqim Rubinstein, Salay Meridor, and Eytan Bentzur. They insist on speaking English, although they know Hebrew. Noblesse oblige.

"They came to sell us the PLO and to insert it through the back door," it was said in Jerusalem.

The three came to sell a memorandum of understanding to the Israelis. Palestinians, too, will receive written promises. Elyaqim Rubinstein, one of the last remainders of the political system of the days of agreements with Egypt, prepared a draft memorandum of understanding. Rubinstein thought that on this solemn occasion, with the Americans so eager to convene a conference, there is room for asking them to reconfirm their previous commitments to Israel. Thus, the Americans have been asked to guarantee that they will not resume the dialogue with the PLO, and that they will prevent the mention of issues pertaining to the region at the Security Council. They were also asked to make commitments with regard to the format of the conference, and so forth.

The memorandum, or the letter of commitment to be formulated in Jerusalem, is no deviation from U.S. policy. So far, the United States has not supported the establishment of a Palestinian state. Kurtzer's friends have said that he believes that at the end of the process, a Palestinian state will be established alongside with Israel. In contacts the three will hold with Palestinians, they will promise that the future of East Jerusalem will be raised in negotiations over a permanent solution in the territories.

In the spring of 1990, a government fell over the question of Palestinian representation. Baker's advisers believed that Shamir would agree to the inclusion of "deportees" and of East Jerusalemites with a double address in the Palestinian delegation. They founded their assessment on their familiarity with the protagonists. Dennis Ross had been in constant touch with the two Meridors—Salay, an aide to Arens, and Dan, the minister of justice. They also relied on Rabin. They then found out they understood nothing about the intricate Israeli politics. Perhaps their excessive proximity to Israelis worked against them.

Today, in late summer 1991, Baker's aides are here again. Baker's success depends on their ability to "produce" a Palestinian delegation that would be joined to the Jordanian delegation. Baker has toured the Maghreb in an attempt to persuade those countries' leaders to pressure the PLO to accept Shamir's rigid conditions. In their talks in Jerusalem, Baker's people will try to squeeze out an additional concession with regard to the Palestinian delegation.

In Washington and Jerusalem, the decisionmakers went on vacation this week. President Bush is vacationing in his summer residence in Maine; James Baker is hunting wild ducks in Wyoming; Dennis Ross is taking his vacation in California; Shamir is in Jerusalem with his grandchildren; Arens is at home in Savyon; and David Levi will go fishing in the Kinneret next week. Miller and Kurtzer—nothing can be done about that—were sent to sweat it out in Jerusalem.

Jewish Agency's Dinitz Leaves for Moscow

TA0408085191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Aug 91 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] Jewish Agency head Simha Dinitz left for Moscow last night, where he is to be a guest lecturer at the Institute for Foreign Relations. He had been invited—the first Israeli political personality so honored—by former Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who heads the institute, according to agency spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, who noted that the political, economic and academic elite of the Soviet Union are institute members.

During his two-week visit, Dinitz will meet with leading members of the Soviet government, as well as with the Jewish communities in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Tbilisi. He will also examine first-hand the work being done by agency emissaries at summer camps being attended by more than 3,000 Jewish youth.

On Friday, Dinitz met with Premier Shamir to discuss the various subjects he will raise during his meetings in the Soviet Union. Shamir requested that in his meetings with the Jewish community, Dinitz stress that the government is doing, and will continue doing, everything possible to improve the absorption process, especially in the area of employment. In his meetings with Soviet officials, Dinitz will discuss coordination and communication between the two countries in matters affecting immigration, especially the importance of direct flights from the Soviet Union to Israel.

'Skepticism' Over Call for Consulate

TA0808140891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 91 p 2

[By Herb Keinon]

[Text] A call by a top Leningrad city council official for Israel to open up a consulate in Leningrad was received with appreciation but skepticism yesterday in Jerusalem.

At a reception in Leningrad for Jewish Agency head Simha Dinitz, currently visiting the Soviet Union, Aleksandr Blayov [name as published], president of the Leningrad city council, called upon Israel to open a consulate in his city.

But a Foreign Ministry official here said that no such message has reached Jerusalem through Soviet Foreign Ministry channels. "Although we appreciate this gesture of goodwill, such things are arranged between foreign ministries, and we have not yet heard anything on this from the Soviet Foreign Ministry," the official said.

Balyov yesterday gave Dinitz the necessary licenses needed to open up a Jewish Agency office in the city. He also said that in addition to an Israeli consulate, Leningrad would like to have a twin-city arrangement with a large Israeli city.

Al-Masri—Nation 'No Alternative' for PLO

JN1208155491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Jordan is seeking a comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue. He affirmed that Jordan will not be an alternative to the Palestinians if a peace conference convenes in the region. These remarks were made by the prime minister during a televised panel discussion, which will be broadcast by Jordan Television at 2030 [1730 GMT], following tonight's newscast.

The prime minister dealt with national and pan-Arab issues, political developments in the region, and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis these developments:

[Begin al-Masri recording] One of these fronts is the Palestinian front. If there is no solution to the Palestinian question, there will be no solution to any problems. The region will remain as it is. The problem is neither in the Golan nor in the few kilometers which Jordan speaks about; the problem is in the Palestinian question, because it deals with a land and a people. Israel wants to evict these people and to seize the land to make it the part of Greater Israel. Therefore, I do not believe in the possibility of reaching separate solutions. Neither Syria nor Jordan, certainly, adopt such a belief.

I can say that Jordan will not enter the conference as an alternative to the Palestinians, because the Palestinians should be chosen by the Palestinians and they are the owners of this right. Jordan will not be a substitute for them.

The question remains: Will Jordan go to the conference or will it not go? This is because if Jordan goes, it will go to tackle only the Jordanian dimension of the issues at hand. Nobody is authorized to discuss the Palestinian dimension other than the Palestinians. So far, Jordan has not made a decision on this, and it does not have an answer to this question.

Now, will the conference, as a whole, convene or will it not convene? I also do not know, because this depends on many parties. This depends on the United States and the USSR, which have called for the summit. They will review matters and we will see what will happen. However, the important point which should be underscored is that if the PLO refuses to go to the conference, or within a joint delegation, Jordan will not be an alternative to them in representing their interests regarding the Palestinian dimension. [end recording]

U.S. Department of State Team Arrives for Talks

Senior Jordanian Official Cited

JN1208063391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter, Nirmin Murad]

[Excerpt] Amman—Three U.S. officials charged with drafting written assurances and guarantees on the form and purpose of the Arab-Israeli peace talks arrived here Sunday morning to discuss with Jordanian officials the details of "letters of understanding" which the U.S. will send to concerned parties along with the invitations to the proposed peace conference proposed to be held in October.

A senior Jordanian official confirmed the U.S. officials' arrival in Amman but declined comment on the talks until they were finalised.

The team, made up of Aaron Miller from the U.S. State Department, Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant of state for Near East affairs, and Edmund Hull of the National Security Council, met with Israeli officials and two Palestinian leaders in the occupied West Bank before travelling to Jordan.

A U.S. embassy spokesman said the team was in Jordan "to look at unresolved issues."

The Jordanian official, who requested anonymity, told the JORDAN TIMES that Jordan will discuss with the officials "the same principles and ideas which we have been talking about with the Americans since the beginning of the new political efforts to broker a Middle East peace."

He did not detail these "principles and ideas" but the Jordanian leadership has repeatedly said that Jordan was committed to a just and durable peace bsed on a land for peace formula in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Jordan has also stressed Jerusalem's status as occupied Arab territory and insisted on having a representative from East Jerusalem within the proposed joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

The three officials arrived in Israel Wednesday and met with Faysal al-Husayni and Hannan 'Ashrawi to discuss "several unresolved issues which were preventing a final decision on whether Palestinians would attend." [passage omitted]

Meeting Held 12 Aug

JN1208122291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The U.S. State Department's team, led by Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant of state for Near East Affairs, held a meeting with Jordanian officials in Amman today.

A responsible Foreign Ministry source told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that the task of the team, which arrived in Amman yesterday, Sunday, from the occupied territories, is to receive Jordanian questions and clarifications on the elements of the peace process, and on the assurances which the Jordanian side wishes to receive over the Palestinian rights to land and self-determination, and those related to the occupied Arab territories in general, and Jerusalem in particular.

The U.S. State Department's team met in the occupied territories with a Palestinian delegation to discuss questions related to the recent U.S. initiative.

Killer of UNESCO Official Apprehended

JN1208180191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Within 24 hours, police in Amman managed to arrest Subhi Yusuf Khalil Sukkar, the man who yesterday killed Dr. Hamid al-Kawwad, acting director of the regional UNESCO office in Amman. The pistol used in the crime was also seized. [passage omitted]

Indonesian Foreign Minister Begins 3-Day Visit

JN0908193491 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The Indonesian Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas, began a three-day visit to Jordan today. He flew into Amman from Istanbul where he attended meetings of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization. [passage omitted]

Meets al-Masri, al-Nusur

JN1008122891 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri conferred at his office today with the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. They discussed relations between the two countries and ways of promoting these relations.

Mr. al-Masri and Mr. Alatas voiced their satisfaction with the development of the relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic domain. They also discussed the results of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference recently held in Istanbul, particularly that the conference has enhanced solidarity among Islamic states.

The prime minister briefed Mr. Alatas on developments involving the recent peace efforts in the region and Jordan's position on these developments.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur and the delegation accompanying the Indonesian minister.

Foreign Minister al-Nusur also held talks with Mr. Alatas at the Foreign Ministry. The two sides reviewed the Middle East situation and the efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to the Arab Israeli dispute and the Palestinian issue. They also discussed issues of joint interest and bilateral relations.

The two sides voiced their desire to promote relations between the two countries in the economic and trade fields and in transport and communications. The Indonesian side paid tribute to the wise policy followed by Jordan under the leadership of his majesty the king in order to advance the cause of peace and security in the Middle East.

Received by King Husayn

JN1008142591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. They discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them, as well as the latest developments in the region.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur.

CBJ Seeks Offers for Sale of BCCI's Branches

JN1308112291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Officials of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Monday expressed hope that local Jordanian banks interested in buying the branches in the Kingdom of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) would soon submit offers so that the transaction can be conducted as soon as possible.

It is hoped that the offers will be promptly submitted and the selling transaction completed in the first week of the coming month, according to the CBJ statement as quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The statement said that in the course of conducting procedures to settle the BCCI issue in Jordan, the CBJ convened a meeting last Saturday for Jordanian banks interested in buying the BCCI branches.

Chairmen of the boards and directors of the banks interested in the branches attended the meeting, during which they were briefed in detail by the auditors on the BCCI's financial status in Jordan, the branches' liquidity and assets, according to the statement.

A decision was taken at the meeting that interested banks should study the auditors report and gather at another meeting on Aug. 25 to present their offers for the purchase of the BCCI's branches in Jordan.

Earlier this month, it was reported that at least seven Jordanian banks had expressed interest in buying the BCCI's three branches in Jordan and approached the CBJ in this regard. The CBJ's desire to sell the three branches came in a reaffirmation of the governments' decision not to order a liquidation of the BCCI operation in Jordan but to sell the branches to interested local banks.

The statement Monday said it was hoped that the offers will soon be submitted so that the three branches will resume normal operations under the new owners.

The BCCI, founded in Pakistan in 1972 with operations in more than 70 countries, was alleged to have been tied to

drug barons, terrorists, arms dealers and intelligence agencies and to have robbed depositors of billions of dollars.

Last month, the BCCI was indicted in the United States on criminal charges for running what was called the largest bank fraud operation in world financial history and was slapped with a record $200 million fine by the Federal Reserve for violating U.S. banking laws.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Turkey

WA1308110691

For Turkish reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray, see the Turkey section of the 9 August West Europe DAILY REPORT.

'Excerpts' of Letter to Perez de Cuellar

NC1308075891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The letter which the Islamic Jihad Organization [IJO] has sent UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar calls for the release of the detainees in the prisons of occupied Palestine and Europe in return for the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon. The letter says:

We ask you to work personally within the framework of a comprehensive solution to bring about the release of all detainees in the world. We will then be willing to release all hostages within 24 hours.

The letter emphasizes the role of the United Nations in dealing with the issues of the oppressed world. It asks why the veto right is given to the big states. It also asks why the United Nations has been allowed to play an effective and important role in solving the Gulf crisis, while it is being prevented from playing any role contributing to finding a just solution for the Palestinian issue, despite the passage of more than 50 years since the usurpation of Palestinian lands by the Zionist enemy.

The IJO's letter asks the United Nations to adopt the teachings of Islam as a course and program for solving all the world's chronic problems. It also calls for the formation of a committee to study Islam, its principles, and rulings in all domains so that these divine teachings and knowledge can be put to good use in all the affairs of the United Nations and its resolutions.

Following are some excerpts from the letter:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations: We send you our wishes of success. You are well aware that your role and status as UN secretary general are of great importance for the peoples of the world, especially the oppressed and tormented people, who on the threshold of the 21st century are still suffering from the yoke of the false gods, hangmen, and thieves of the world.

The letter adds: You are also aware that your support for and backing of the movement of the oppressed and persecuted peoples in the Islamic world, Africa, and South America in their endeavors to gain their independence, freedom, and self-determination has made a good impression. Thus, you must always support the struggle of these people against the arrogant and usurpers. This is what these people are awaiting from you so that the United Nations and its secretary general will not be used as an alibi and a conduit for committing the ugliest crimes and international plots concocted in its lobbies under false slogans calling for the maintenance of the security of the international community, world peace, the need to fight terrorism, and so forth.

The letter stresses that the slogan of fighting world terrorism raised by the United States and its allies is a slogan of a party that wants to keep the swords they hold, using them when they find their interests being threatened by the movements of the oppressed and rebellious peoples. They are using this slogan under the pretext of wanting to fight the terrorism threatening world peace and security.

The letter says that the peoples' uprising to achieve self-determination, regain their stolen freedom and indepepdence, and stop their subservience to the arrogant states is not terrorism but a legitimate right. If the slogan of fighting international terrorism aims at diverting us and distancing us from our struggle against global arrogance, we will continue the hard course which we have chosen for ourselves and we will not budge one inch backward. If the aim is to keep wars open between us and them, we are fully prepared to carry on this confrontation until one of two inevitable results are achieved: either victory or martyrdom.

If struggle and resistance against great powers is terrorism, we and the oppressed peoples in the world are proud to be terrorists fighting injustice and terrorizing the enemies of God and mankind as long as they interfere in the domestic affairs of the oppressed nations and peoples of the world.

The letter then says: We are part of the Islamic and Muslim movement in the world. Their causes are our causes. Their pain is our pain. Their joy is our joy. We will forever remain, God willing, at the vanguard of the defenders of the causes of Islam and Muslims. We do not fear the reproaches of anyone, because we rely on God.

The IJO then asks in its letter: Where is the right to self-determination for the Muslim and oppressed peoples in Palestine, Kashmir, and Afghanistan? Has not the UN Charter stipulated the peoples' right to determine their own fate without foreign custodianship or imperialist intervention?

It says that the use of all means, including the use of force, in the struggle for self-determination is a legitimate and justifiable action and has nothing to do with terrorism. Are the oppressed peoples and societies—which are demanding freedom, independence, justice, dignified life, and the severing of the hands that are tampering with their countries, resources, beliefs, and the future of their sons—terrorist peoples and societies? What is the UN role toward the peoples in the world and toward resistance to imperialist interventions in the internal affairs of oppressed countries, such as the United States did in Nicaragua, Panama, Ethiopia, and other countries and as the Israeli enemy is daily and blatantly doing in the occupied territories and Lebanon?

The letter adds: Mr. Perez de Cuellar: This is the dismal reality of the United Nations, where the U.S.-led superpowers have hegemony over its resolutions. These are nothing but U.S.- and Western-oriented resolutions in their aims, role, and the expected results, particularly in

the wake of the collapse of the communist empire and the U.S. endeavor to monopolize the political leadership of the world.

In this respect, we address a call to you in your capacity as UN secretary general and to the world to adopt Islam as an ideology, shariah, and order and to spread [the teachings] of the great Imam Khomeyni, who explained the principles and charters which peoples, movements, and regimes must rely upon in their endeavor toward progress and toward resolving the problems from which they are suffering and achieving happiness and prosperity. The Islam we are advocating, propagating, defending, and for whose victory and exaltation we martyr ourselves does not recognize borders and national, racial, or geographical barriers which separate the peoples and which man has created for himself. Islam came to unite peoples and make them a society that worships God Almighty and where man exercises his role as the heir of God on His earth and [word indistinct].

The letter then said that Islam is a divine message that when acted upon achieves its sons' happiness in this world and in the hereafter. It notes that the United Nations could take Islam, the religion of humanity, as a model in its work. It can also make cooperation among nations based on righteousness and godliness and not on evil and aggression and make its adoption of human rights charters complete without discrimination or bias toward one nationality against another.

Man is man wherever he is, regardless of whether he is black or white or of his nationality. The United Nations must always and forever be a strong supporter and defender of the peoples' movement in their struggles and jihad against the usurpers of their rights and the looters of their wealth. It should be an impregnable barrier to the arrogants' plotting schemes. It should confront Zionism in the world because Zionism is equated with racism and thus constitutes a danger to humanity. This was established in the past, but no practical measures were taken on it, particularly on the issue of occupied Palestine and what the Zionists are doing against the Islamic intifadah there. The UN Charter and rules should put Islam—as a divine religion that has its own duties, sacred places, and affairs—above all the material considerations of nations, rights, and affairs. The Muslims are a single nation; and, like one body, where when one part ails, the other parts rush to nurse it. They are an inseparable part of the Islamic movement in the world.

The United Nations should adopt Islam as a permanent basis for resolving all problems of human societies which the United Nations continues to claim to be alleviating or ending, but has never succeeded in doing so. This is, of course, because in the first place it is ('the tool) of the superpowers, which created it to tamper with the fate of small peoples, and second, because they ignored the religious aspect of man's character and his links to the hereafter when they dealt with man's problems.

The letter says that the collapse of the communist regimes in the world is the best example of the failure of the material regimes to solve those problems as specified by the Holy Koran and explained by the late imam in his message to Gorbachev. In his message, the imam says the problem does not lie in property, economy, and freedom, but in the loss of belief in God. Also, the nonbelief in morals is the most important basis in the dealings of human societies in the East and West.

In its letter, the IJO draws Perez de Cuellar's attention to the fact that the issue of detainees and hostages [muhtajazin] in the world is one of the results of the confrontation between us and the forces of global arrogance led by the United States, the mother of corruption in the world, and its germ, Israel. The letter asks: Did not the hostages issue occur after the massacres committed by the Israeli enemy during its invasion of Lebanon in 1982 before the eyes and ears and with the assistance of the multinational forces without giving any consideration to the UN forces? Did not the issue of hostages occur after the intervention of the Atlantic armies deployed in Beirut in the war between the Muslims and the U.S. agents and Israel and after their support for the army of political Maronism?

The IJO's letter goes on to ask: Did not the issue of hostages take place after the enemy had thrown thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian strugglers into the detention camps of Ansar, al-Khiyam, 'Atlit, and others, the last of these acts being the abduction of Shaykh struggler 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from his house, and after thousands of heroes of the initifadah in occupied Palestine were detained and deported? Therefore, the issue of hostages came as a reaction by the Muslim mujahidin to all these practices and out of their endeavors to bring about the release of the detaineed strugglers. This issue will continue as long as these practices continue.

The IJO concludes its letter saying: Out of our faith in the need to work to bring about the release of our strugglers in the prisons of occupied Palestine and Europe and to solve the issue of our detainees and the problems which their families are facing, we call on Perez de Cuellar to work personally within the framework of a comprehensive solution to bring about the release of all detainees in the world. We will then be perfectly willing to complete the process we began today and to release the persons we are detaining within 24 hours. We are sending you this letter with a special envoy, whom we have chosen to be John McCarthy, one of the detainees we are holding.

We hope you will pay this issue the serious and responsible attention it desrves. We are awaiting a practical reply from you that will lead to the required and fruitful solution. While waiting, we wish our detained brother strugglers dignity and freedom and the world nations security and justice. We believe that this justice will ultimately prevail and that it exists in Islam and will come about at the hands of the scion of Muhammad, the

expected Mahdi to whom we redeem our souls, and may peace be upon those who follow the right path.

Al-Hirawi Comments on Hostages, Southern Lebanon

LD1208220491 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Aug 91

["Exclusive" interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by special correspondent Patricia Coste in Beirut on 12 August—recorded]

[Text] In Lebanon the release of Jerome Leyraud, the representative of Medecins du Monde in Lebanon, was obtained after a massive police operation by the Lebanese state and Syrian troops, with the Lebanese state regaining a share of credibility in this affair. One can also see in this an illustration that the period when hostages were weapons of war is past. At any rate, this is what Lebanese head of state Ilyas al-Hirawi thinks. He answered questions in an exclusive interview for Antenne-2 with our special correspondent Patricia Coste:

[Al-Hirawi] Listen, very shortly Lebanon, which up to the present time has supported the hostages—there was nothing else to do—will be finished with the word hostage and the Lebanese people will be respected anywhere. We began by using force in each sector in Beirut—you have noticed that—at the same time...

[Coste, interrupting] Also in al-Biqa', for example?

[Al-Hirawi] Al-Biqa', from Ba'labakk to (?Mashrar) against everybody, against everybody. Those who did not accept it did not accept it.

[Coste] That was intimidation, and on the other hand you did negotiate—where?

[Al-Hirawi] There were certain people who were in the process of negotiating; I believe at that moment, when they saw the show of force, they saw that the decision was made and they said among themselves: in the end one has to release him to end this whole episode.

[Coste] Certain people were in the process of negotiating; what does that mean?

[Al-Hirawi] To tell you the truth, I cannot reply to such a question because it is not I who was negotiating, and I was not charged with negotiating.

[Coste] You mean that there were dealings for example between...

[Al-Hirawi, interrupting] There were many people who were in the process of negotiating (?to give us) a bit of time—48 hours, 72 hours. It was fortunate that the reply was decisive. (?This is what we wanted at any cost), but we said among ourselves, when we were in the process of gathering together the heads of the police and the general of the Lebanese Army: Are we sure of being able to save this gentlemen, in spite of the fact that it was heard on the radio that they were ready to kill him?

[Coste] The people who were negotiating, they were right within the Hizballah?

[Al-Hirawi] Of course.

[Coste] Between groups?

[Al-Hirawi] Between groups. There are several of them in Lebanon.

[Coste] They are numerous. Did the Syrians intervene directly to exert pressure, to put a little bit of order into these groups?

[Al-Hirawi] Listen, madam, to be quite frank, whether it was the Syrians or the Lebanese, we were in the process of working on that in parallel. All the time we had discussions together.

[Coste] Can one say that the new, the next stage in the peace process—there is much talk about it—will perhaps be the release of General 'Awn?

[Al-Hirawi] Why not speak about Resolution 425 and other resolutions that have been adopted within the United Nations? That is the thing that now worries everyone. It is one dossier, one of the dossiers, that we have with us on the table. Yes, we are going to discuss it very calmly, we are going to look at the fate of everybody. There is 'Awn and there are others, but now for us personally, as the Lebanese Government and people, it is 425 and the liberation of southern Lebanon that comes first, before we speak about the release of whatever person, a person who lives anywhere, who continues to live. But now what worries the government and me in the first place is the liberation of southern Lebanon.

[Coste] Very well.

Report on 'Framework' for Hostage Release Noted

NC1208193291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Citing fundamentalist Islamic sources in Beirut, REUTER reports that an agreement on the general framework for a deal to free the hostages in Lebanon has been been reached. Under the agreement, 10 Western hostages would be released in return for the release of hundreds of detainees in Israel. These sources noted that a secret agreement in this respect was reached before Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli occupation activities, arrived in Geneva yesterday. The sources added that the role of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and Lubrani will be confined to working out the details. These sources expect that the organizations holding the hostages will take another step to show their goodwill and seriousness in implementing any agreement reached.

Fadlallah Returns From Consultations in Syria

NC1308090691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah returned from Damascus yesterday after a private visit during which he met with Iranian Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri. The two discussed various Islamic issues.

During his stay in Damascus, Fadlallah received opposition delegations from Iraq and the Gulf states. He also received Mohammed Hasan Akhtari, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus; Mohammed Shari'ati, Iranian cultural adviser in Syria and Lebanon; and Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani, head of the Third Department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Fadlallah also met with Patriarch Hazim; Bishop Francois Abu-al- Mukh, representating Patriarch Maximum Hakim; Bishop Bulus al-Suvi, representing Patriarch Ignatius Zakka, Bishop Ilyas Kaffuri, director of Patriarch Hazim's office, and the Papal Nuncio in Damascus. Discussion centered on Christian-Muslim relations in Lebanon and the Islamic-Christian dialogue.

[Paris AFP at 0809 GMT on 13 August carries a report on Fadlallah's visit to Syria, saying that Fadlallah "discussed the hostage crisis with Iranian officials visiting Syria, the cleric's office said Tuesday."]

Hizballah Wants ICRC To Visit Shaykh 'Ubayd

NC1208112991 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug 12 (AFP) - The Hizballah Shiite movement wants the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, detained in Israel, before it will authorize the ICRC to see Hizballah-held Israeli soldiers, a security source said Monday.

The release of Shaykh 'Ubayd, a Hizballah leader kidnapped by Israeli commandos in southern Lebanon in July 1989, remains "the key demand" of Lebanese hostage-takers if the current momentum toward freeing all Western captives here is to continue, analysts stressed.

Hizballah "has made it clear to ICRC delegates that this demand is not negotiable," said one informed source.

Pro-Iranian groups since Thursday have set free two of their long-term hostages, Briton John McCarthy and Edward Tracy of the United States, and are demanding that Israel agree to release all the Shiite and Palestinian prisoners it has seized in Lebanon.

Israel has agreed to free its captives on condition that seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982 are either returned or accounted for.

ICRC delegates in Lebanon have met frequently with leaders of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement and have been authorized to visit the Israeli detainees.

But committee representatives have never been allowed to see Shaykh 'Ubayd, nor have they been permitted to visit the Lebanese Shiites and Palestinians held at Khiyam prison in Israeli-controlled southern Lebanon.

Amnesty International recently condemned conditions at the facility.

Hizballah chief 'Abbas al-Musawi, in a recent interview with AFP, refused to disclose the number of Israelis held by Hizballah nor the number of those still alive.

The movement claimed the capture of two Israeli soldiers during an Israeli thrust into southern Lebanon in October 1986 and later released photographs of the two men in hospital, receiving transfusions.

Reliable sources here have said Ron Arad, an Israeli airman seized by the pro-Syrian Amal in October 1986, is now in the hands of Hizballah.

According to Palestinian sources the four other soldiers are dead.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has said it is prepared to return the body of one of them. But the other three have been buried and their graves have not been located, according to a Palestinian source.

Al-Asad Receives Major's Thanks on Release

JN1208092391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, 12 Aug (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from British Prime Minister John Major containing the British Government's thanks to the president and the Syrian Government for Syria's efforts to secure the release of British hostage John Mccarthy, and to secure the release of other hostages.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the message when he received British Ambassador in Damascus Andrew Fleming Green.

Foreign Minister on Role in Hostage Release

LD1008030191 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Istanbul by Peter Snow in London on 8 August; from the "Newsnight" program—recorded]

[Text] [Snow] Well, now to measure Syria's role in the hostage crisis so far and what we can expect from Syria from now on, I turned to the country's Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', in Istanbul for an Islamic conference. On a rather difficult telephone link-up from there, I first asked him what role Syria had played in the release of John McCarthy.

[Al-Shar'] Well, Syria has been exerting tremendous pressure in order to gain the release of all the Western hostages. Unfortunately, we are unable, so far, to gain the release of all. But today there is a good sign that McCarthy is released.

[Snow] Are you and the Iranian Government doing all you can to bring about a resolution of this hostage crisis once and for all?

[Al-Shar'] Yes, I think so. I think so. Both countries want to see the end of the ordeal of the hostages. We are fed up with this continuity of the hostage-taking.

[Snow] What do you think the hostage-takers hope to achieve by what's happened today?

[Al-Shar'] I think the kidnappers have already made this release as a gesture, and as a test as well, for the Western countries to do something about their relatives held inside Israel's prisons.

[Snow] How much effective control do you and the Iranians have over extremist groups like Islamic Jihad?

[Al-Shar'] Well, very little. Very little. We have influence, the Iranians have influence; but we don't know where are those hostages held. We are trying to get them. We are exerting pressure though many channels, through many Lebanese parties who have some sort of direct or indirect connection with the kidnappers.

[Snow] Why is it that, in spite of increasing control over the ground in Lebanon, you're still unable to secure the release of all the hostages, as you say you want to?

[Al-Shar'] Well, it's a very complicated issue. You know the hostage problem has been linked with so many things, with so many preconditions; but Syria has always rejected any preconditions to be linked with the release of the Western hostages. From a humanitarian point of view, we couldn't escape the fact that there are a number of Lebanese hostages held in Israel's prisons, and those have been, in fact, abducted and taken as hostages. Those kidnappers believe that their relatives have to be released as well, and no one is talking about those Lebanese and Palestinian hostages held in the Israeli prisons. That's why the kidnappers say: If you are so humanitarian to look after the Western hostages in Lebanon and to gain their release, why don't these countries do something about our hostages held inside Israel?

[Snow] Do you think that what happened today is a sign that fundamentalism and extremism in the Middle East is on the decline?

[Al-Shar'] It's very difficult to say; but I think unless there is one standard to be used in international legitimacy and that the United Nations resolutions are abided by in our region, extremism and fundamentalism would increase and would mount and not deteriorate.

[Snow] How important an influence on what happened today, and what may happen now, do you think is the increasing prospect of a Middle East peace conference this autumn?

[Al-Shar'] Well, I don't know, but this is a mere beginning. What is important is not to hold the conference; what is more important is to have tangible results out of this conference; in other words, to see that the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are implemented, and that Israel is going to pull out from the occupied territories, from the Golan, from Jerusalem, from the West Bank, and Gaza. In this case, we can have a durable, comprehensive, and just peace in the region.

Editorial Criticizes Israeli Stand on Detainees

JN1308070191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 13 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Israel: The Symbol of Terrorism", the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: Recently, Israel has once again been revealing its ugly terrorist face by refusing to respond to the international calls for it to release thousands of struggling detainees held in its prisons. These detainees are subjected to the ugliest forms of torture and oppression simply because they reject its occupation and confront its expansionist designs and greed.

This Zionist stand is not new. Israel's policy since the usurpation of Palestine has been based on a principle whose essence is aggression and expansion, whose unifying factor is terrorism, and whose public and official goal is to control the region so that it can set up its mythical Torah state from the Nile to the Euphrates, rob its resources, and enslave its people.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since time immemorial, history provided vivid proof and a bloody record of the bestial terrorism practiced by Zionism in its old and new meanings against the region and its people; of its continuing violations of the simplest human rights; and of its violation of international charters, norms, and laws.

AL-BA'TH says that Israel's refusal to release the detainees it is holding is in line with its essential stand of refusing just and permanent peace in the Middle East, adhering to the occupation of Arab land, and denying the Palestinian people their rights. Israel was established on terrorism, racism, aggression, and expansion. Its continued existence and realization of declared objectives are linked to these bases. Therefore, it rejects, even insists on rejecting, all peace efforts and world calls for it to adopt initiatives that will decrease tension in the region and defuse the explosive situation.

The newspaper concludes its editorial saying: In return, the Arabs have very clearly proven their love and hopes for peace and their true desire for a just and permanent solution that will put an end to the tragedy the region is suffering as a result of the Zionist terrorism. This would also guarantee realization of the region's aspirations for growth, development, and prosperity.

These facts require that the world shoulders its full responsibilities and, if it truly wants peace, adopts initiatives that will put an end to Israel's terrorism, designs, and measures, which threaten not only the security and safety of the region, but endanger world peace and security.

Israel's 'Evasiveness,' Peace Conference Examined

JN1108075891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 11 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Shamir's Evasiveness," TISHRIN's editorial indicates that the Arabs are not the only parties warning the U.S. Administration about the Shamir government's evasiveness. Indeed, many world observers doubt the possibility of convening the peace conference in view of the conditions Israel is setting on Palestinian representation and the conference agenda, not to mention Israeli officials' statements and conduct, which conflict with peace efforts and President Bush's proposals.

Many observers believe that the Israeli prime minister has drawn up a full-blown strategy aimed at torpedoing the peace conference before it convenes or at least delaying its convocation.

In conclusion TISHRIN says: It is important to block Shamir's attempts in this regard and make every possible effort to convene the peace conference on time; that is, in October. It is true that the conference might not result in anything positive unless the two superpowers apply effective pressure. However, it remains to be said that the conference, if convened, will show the entire world which side wants peace and which one opposes it. Indeed, numerous Western governments that offered immense aid to Israel will discover that their funds have been used to further aggression and expansion and uproot the Palestinian people and turn them into refugees displaced all over the globe. We are certain that the world community will then stand united to end the most horrendous crime committed in our contemporary history.

In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same issue, affirming that Israel is acting on the basis that the Arabs will be making concessions and that the world has to bring itself to accept Israel's conditions and expansionist ambitions. The paper adds: Therefore, Israel will not halt its settlement building activities. Furthermore, it will continue to place obstacles to prevent the convening of the conference. There are doubts about the possible success of the conference in view of the open Israeli hostility to peace. Ari'el Sharon has even gone as far as to say that the peace conference would lead to war.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The world community must guard against the Israeli game which is aimed at wasting time to squander the peace opportunity. Israeli bargaining is tinged with blackmail. However, the world community is urged to apply systematic pressure on Israel to cut it down to size and to make it come to the negotiating table of the conference on its own terms, and not on the basis of the Israeli antipeace stand, which opposes the implementation of international legitimacy.

Israeli Conduct in Region, UN Stand Viewed

JN1008083491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries and under the headline "The Required Position," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The position of the world community, especially that of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, toward Israeli conduct, which is hostile to international will and obstructs this community's efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region, is, on reasonable grounds, no longer justifiable.

AL-THAWRAH says that Israel's intransigent and evasive policy crippled the peace efforts and killed any tangible optimism in this regard. AL-THAWRAH says there are two basic reasons for the belated and qualified Israeli acceptance of U.S. President George Bush's letter: First, to avoid international isolation; and second, to attempt to obtain huge U.S. financial aid. However, as AL-THAWRAH says, this acceptance has not prevented Israeli officials from making statements on nonwithdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, especially Jerusalem and the Golan. The paper links this to the escalation of settlement building and the repression of the intifadah by all means and methods.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel wants an unconditional Arab acceptance [of Israel] and peace on its own terms and at the time that suits it. It wants a peace that would enable it to realize its expansionist plan regarding the establishment of Greater Israel in the shortest possible time and without hindrance. When this happens, Israel can say that the Arabs pose no threats to it and that they protect its security.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: One of the cardinal axiomatic requirements necessary for the successful tackling of any issue or conflict between two sides is the prior adoption by the permanent members of the UN Security Council of decisions, measures, and mechanism to deter and curb the arrogant and increasingly intransigent and hostile party, exactly as they did when they tackled the Gulf crisis, at least throughout the period preceding the procedural efforts to resolve the issue in question.

Under the headline "Land for Peace," TISHRIN says in its editorial: The seventh tour of the region expected to be made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would be part of the additional efforts to bring about a change in the Israeli stand, which opposes peace and its requirements.

The newspaper TISHRIN adds: We wonder if Israel will be serious, and consequently respond favorably to political efforts. We also wonder whether it will accept the demands of the world community, as well as the demands enshrined in the international legitimacy resolutions, which stipulate that there can be no permanent peace as long as the occupation is maintained. Indeed, there can be no durable peace if Israel adheres to its well-known no's.

The paper goes on to say: This Israeli conduct shows unrestrained and utter hostility toward peace and the efforts aimed at achieving it. This conduct also puts the Shamir government in open confrontation with the requirements and foundations of peace. The paper wonders: What kind of peace is Israel promoting and propagandizing if it does not start with recognizing world legitimacy and the need for returning the Arab territories it occupied by war and force to their rightful owners and with an immediate halt to all Zionist settlement building?

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Credibility is an indivisible whole. Responsiveness to peace efforts should emanate from serious concern to safeguard Arab rights. Hence, Israel must be pressured into accepting a peace conference based on the participation of all parties. Moreover, the United Nations must be allowed to play an effective role in such a conference. Consequently, Israel should abandon its impossible conditions and dictates regarding the structure of the conference and the representation of the parties that will attend. It also follows that Israel should be expected to acknowledge that sovereignty over the occupied Arab territories is the birthright of the Arabs and that these territories have to be regained if peace is to be attained.

Commentary Demands Return of All Territories

JN1008132091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Israeli circles close to the prime minister's office are claiming that Yitzhaq Shamir will boycott the peace conference if Syria insists on regaining the occupied Golan Heights. These same circles repeatedly assert that Shamir categorically refuses to discuss the issue of Jerusalem. He even sets the condition that any Palestinian delegation asked to participate in the peace talks should not in any way mention the word Jerusalem so that he will not be forced to withdraw from the conference. [passage omitted]

Convening the peace conference at the set time—that is, sometime during the month of October—is a very important matter. The conference will be able to reveal and expose Israel's anti-peace stance to the whole world. The Israeli maneuvers will not hold for very long, regardless of how much they stall, because Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulate full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The U.S. Administration, the Soviet Union, and the international community committed themselves to implementing these two resolutions.

If peace is to be arranged and continued, the occupied territories must be returned. Washington, along with the rest of the world, have made clear that Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are a part of the occupied territories and that a just settlement must include all fronts.

Syria is not only demanding the return of the Golan Heights, but all the territories Israel usurped by force and war in 1967, including Jerusalem. Syria does not care whether Shamir withdraws from the peace conference or whether he boycotts it. Syria is concerned about retrieving the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. Syria is concerned about the rights of the Palestinian people. There is no peace in the region without the retrieval of land and rights. Israel alone will be responsible for the failure of the peace conference. The international community is responsible for implementing its resolutions and affirming its credibility

before the whole world, which is demanding a firmness with Israel that will rescue the Middle East from real dangers and safeguard stability in our world. This is because Israel's practices and daily bestial aggressions on the Arab people and territories have become a real threat to the international community's principles and future.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN1208102891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his wife arrived in Damascus at noon today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

To receive the Indonesian minister were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Mrs. al-Shar', ranking officials from the Foreign Ministry, Indonesian ambassador in Damascus, and the Embassy staff.

Meets Foreign Minister al-Shar'

JN1208161491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Damascus—A round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry today between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and means to improve ties in all fields, particularly in the economic and commercial fields, and in joint ventures.

They also reviewed international conditions, developments in the region, and the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, on the basis of the UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

The Indonesian foreign minister stressed Syria's important and vital role in the region. He said his country firmly supports Syria's stand on the Palestinian question during the peace process. The Indonesian minister also reviewed developments in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, particularly the future economic potential of that region.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Turkey

WA1308110391

For Turkish reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray, see the Turkey section of the 9 August West Europe DAILY REPORT.

Afghanistan

'Outspoken' Kabul Paper Banned; Editor Arrested

BK1208132291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 12 (AFP)—The government of President Najibollah has banned an outspoken bi-weekly newspaper published here and arrested its editor, media and diplomatic sources said here Monday.

They said the latest edition of the Persian language AZADI (freedom) had failed to appear on the streets and its downtown Kabul office was locked.

AZADI editor Ghulam Sakhi Ghairat had been arrested and was believed to be in jail, the sources said.

There was no immediate comment on the closure of the newspaper, which had recently printed excerpts from an article on mojahedin leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, by the Office for State Security or by Foreign Ministry spokesmen.

However, diplomats pointed out that the Monday edition of the state-run Hewad (Forward) had published a scathing critique of AZADI and that the report had been written by a member of the Central Committee of Najibollah's ruling Watan or Homeland Party.

AZADI, which started publication in December last year and was seen as one of the more liberal newspapers to appear in Kabul since the government here started trying to shed its communist image, has also published an open letter from the city's notorious Puli Chakri prison criticising conditions there.

Last month it published criticism of the government by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, a former prime minister who quit the Kabul regime shortly after his return from the Soviet Union in July.

Editor Ghairat is a former official of the small leftist party, Sazar, which has considerable influence in northern Afghanistan. However Sazar officials have said he was expelled from the party for his alleged pro-Moscow leanings.

Ghairat has previously denied his Soviet links saying he had quit the party as it lacked dynamism.

Najibollah is reportedly under pressure from the hardline party elements who disagree with his policy of national reconciliation with the mojahedin fighting to topple Najibollah's Soviet-backed government for the past 13 years.

Prime Minister Discusses Economic Policy

LD1308085991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The Prime Ministry press department reports that a plenary session of the Council of Ministers chaired by Esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, was held this morning at the Prime Ministry. After the assessment of the political and military situation in the country, a number of important national issues and legal documents were discussed and decisions were made. Opening the session, Esteemed Khaliqyar described the economic situation of the country and said that measures are being taken to solve economic problems. In line with these measures, delegations are to visit the Soviet Union to assess and purchase wheat and petroleum products, in addition to those agreements (?already) concluded. Contacts with some other countries for providing primary goods are also being made.

Concerning the supply of Kabul citizens with fuel, particularly coal, the esteemed prime minister said that an operational delegation is going to the north to assist the authorities concerned in the work of extracting, loading, and transporting coal to Kabul. Esteemed Khaliqyar expressed the hope that the government will be able, despite existing problems, to supply coal needed by Kabul citizens at the volume of last year.

The prime minister said that the state monopoly in most cases, particularly in the consumer area, will be eliminated. This state economic policy is in accordance with the Republic of Afghanistan Constitution and highlights other measures taken by the government regarding the provision of primary goods, encouraging the economic private sector, and developing a free market economy. In this way, the private sector will also have the opportunity to engage in the production, sale, and supply of (?petroleum) products from whatever source they want. National traders, of course, will only be charged five 5 afghanis per liter as the right of monopoly.

Esteemed Khaliqyar added: Until private investors are ready to provide the means, equipment, production, and supply of petroleum material, surplus tools and equipment belonging to the state will be temporarily rented to them in the area of their activity.

Expressing confidence in the organization and consistency of distribution and supply of primary goods and petroleum products by the state organs and the private sector, the prime minister said a number of pro forma measures for the import of coal, wood-for-fuel, sugar, and petroleum products have been registered. An amount of sugar has been imported by the private sector, and wood and fuel will be imported in the near future. In addition to the provisions by state institutions, the private sector has taken a series of measures concerning wheat, flour, and rice too. The government will continue its efforts toward further activating the private sector and national investment, so their role could become more outstanding, wider, and effective in the national economy and providing the needs of the people.

Pointing out the provision of wheat from internal sources, the prime minister said the purchase of surplus wheat from farmers inside the country is continuing. So

far, some 20,000 tonnes of wheat have been purchased, and the possibility exists that the plan of providing 170,000 tonnes or even more will be implemented.

Mentioning the economic situation of the country, the esteemed prime minister expressed confidence that there is no concern about a shortage of primary goods. The government has taken additional measures in this regard; preparations and reserves have been under consideration, which could be utilized in case of necessity. [passage omitted]

Deputy Defense Minister Visits Troops 8 Aug

LD0908193191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The personnel of the units and sub-units which took part in the combat operation and staffed the security posts along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway were inspected yesterday.

According to the BAKHTAR military section, General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, first deputy minister of defense, general commander of Kabul garrison, and administrator of combat operations along Kabul-Jalalabad highway, visited the sapper fortifications of the security posts and recalled with appreciation the personnel's heroism and bravery displayed during the combat operation. He drew the attention of the personnel to their subsequent duties to repulse and to foil conspiracies hatched by the military circles of Pakistan and foil attacks by the warmongering extremists supported by Pakistan, as well as to restore peace and security on and around this highway.

The head of the political affairs of Sorobi infantry force and a number of the personnel then spoke on behalf of the others. They said they were ready for every sacrifice and devotion to defend the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. According to another report, General Mohammad Nabi Azimi visited the operational units and sub-units of Sorobi force.

At a meeting on this occasion, the Deputy Minister of Defense spoke and gave specific instructions to the personnel on consolidation of fortifications of the security posts along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. He also commended those personnel of the units and sub-units who took part in the combat operation and presented gifts to them.

The source added that the Kabul-Jalalabad highway is open to traffic.

India

Local BCCI Clients Assured Deposits 'Safe'

BK1208130891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Bombay, India, Aug 12 (AFP)--The official liquidator of India's branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) assured local clients that their deposits were safe even though the institution had collapsed.

"BCCI's Indian depositors will have very little to worry about," said S.M. Parande, the New Delhi-appointed BCCI liquidator, amid fears that long delays in the liquidation process could jeopardise the business of several firms with BCCI accounts.

Parande assured BCCI's 8,000 clients over the weekend that not only would depositors get a full refund on their accounts, but that there would be a surplus of assets after the bank's total liquidation.

BCCI's Indian assets total 5.2 billion rupees against total deposits of 3.8 billion rupees and advances of 1.8 billion rupees, according to its 1990-1991 balance sheet.

As much as 2.8 billion rupees of its deposits came as remittances from Indians working abroad and Parande, a senior State Bank of India official, said Indian banking rules had saved the depositors from losses.

Meanwhile, the BCCI issue surfaced again Monday in Parliament in New Delhi where the opposition accused the bank of channelling unaccounted money from Indian businesses to bank accounts abroad.

Opposition leader George Fernandes accused the bank of "swindling" the country of almost 30 million dollars through a fake passport scam and said it had channelled unaccounted funds worth almost 50 million dollars of a large business to bank accounts abroad.

Fernandes accused Finance Minister Manmohan Singh of misleading Parliament last week by officially clearing BCCI's operations in India and reiterated charges that the collapsed bank had acted as a conduit for money-laundering.

Other opposition MPs interrupted proceedings for some time in the lower house demanding a government assurance to debate the activities of the bank at a later date.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) moved quickly and ordered the liquidation of BCCI after it collapsed worldwide July 5 to prevent an outflow of funds from its Bombay branch to pay liabilities elsewhere.

Half of BCCI's Indian assets are held either as deposits with the RBI or in the form of government securities. Another large portion take the form of inter-bank lendings and short term bills, the liquidator said, adding that this money was "easily realisable".

He said recovery of most of the loans given out by the now closed BCCI would also not be difficult, adding that the bank's property in this city was worth another 31 million dollars.

Reports have said several foreign banks were hoping to buy the BCCI branch, the only one in India.

Parande said he and his eight-member team had already recovered one billion rupees owed to the bank since July 15.

Former Union Minister Comments

BK1308041091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The former union minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has called for an inquiry into the functioning of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. In a letter to the prime minister, he said this is necessary so that the people do not get the impression that the party or the government wants to prevent an inquiry.

Remarks of U.S. Envoy, UK's Kaufman Criticized

BK1208150691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The Congress-I has taken serious note of the reported remarks of the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Oakley, regarding Kashmir at a seminar in Islamabad. The party spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, said that Kashmir is an integral part of India and any observation about it is uncalled for.

He also regretted the remarks of the British Labor Party M.P. [member of parliament], Mr. Gerald Kaufman, on Kashmir and said India does not need any external assistance to resolve its bilateral issues with Pakistan.

Kaufman Remarks Faulted by Minister

BK1208151091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Parliament has passed the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities [TADA] Prevention Amendment Bill, extending application of the TADA Act for another two years to check the terrorist menace.

The Lok Sabha gave its approval today by 133 votes in favor and 116 against. The bill had already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, who intervened, assured the house that TADA will not be misused for suppressing political opponents and trade unionism. He assured the members that if any specific instances of misuse of TADA are brought to the notice of the government, these will be looked into.

Mr. Chavan regretted that Pakistan is encouraging antinational activities on our soil and told the house that he will soon visit Jammu and Kashmir to personally understand the problem.

The home minister said the statement of the British Labor Party leader, Mr. Kaufman, on the question of plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir is contrary to the stand of the British Government.

Mr. Chavan said the IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] executive director, Mr. Doraiswamy, is safe and the government is taking all necessary steps for his safe release.

One Killed, 23 Injured in Jammu Bomb Blast

BK1308041291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] In Jammu, one person was killed and 23 injured in a bomb blast near the city police station yesterday evening. Two seriously injured persons have been shifted to a hospital in Ludhiana. Members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad [students' organization] and the Shiv Sena held demonstration in the city last night in protest against the administration's failure to check such incidents. All educational institutions in Jammu city have been closed for today in view of the bundh [strike] call by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and other organizations to protest against the bomb blast.

Minister on Terrorism, Deportation of LTTE's

BK1008125791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, says government prefers to tackle the problem of terrorism ideologically before trying out extreme options. He expressed serious concern over the increasing terrorist violence in some parts of the country due to separatist and secessionist militancy. The home minister said some outside forces, who do not like the country to develop, are aiding and abetting terrorism. Mr. Chavan was addressing the state police personnel at the National Security Guards [NSG] camp at Manisar, New Delhi, today. He said terrorists are rapidly modifying their modus operandi as is evident in the killing of the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. The home minister urged the specialized organizations, like the NSG, to suitably evolve preventive strategies to foil conspiracies by terrorists.

Mr. Chavan later said that the kidnapped IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] official, Mr. Doraiswamy, is safe and alive. Replying to a question by our correspondent, the home minister expressed the view that unwarranted publicity for the kidnappers both outside and inside the parliament is influencing their thinking.

He said the government is serious about detecting and deporting the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants who are taking shelter in Tamil Nadu in the guise of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees without proper travel documents. The home minister will visit Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Assam to have firsthand information on the ground realities there.

Extension of Treaty With USSR Hailed

BK1208151491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said the Indo-Soviet Treaty has made a significant contribution in promoting peace, security, and disarmament in the world. In his inaugural address at the public meeting in New Delhi today, Mr. Chavan said the renewal of this treaty for another 20 years proves that it is based on universally-accepted principles.

Commentator on U.S.-USSR START Agreement

BK1008124091 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Commentary by K. Subramaniam, director of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis]

[Text] The START agreement signed in Moscow on 31st July 1991 indeed represents a turning point in history. For the first time since the strategic arms race began with the Soviet TA-16 bombers and the ICBMs, which could raze the American mainland in the mid-fifties, this is the first cutback on the arsenal. However, the treaty finally signed, did not come to the expectation held out earlier during the course of discussions. The often-mentioned goal was to reduce the arsenal on either side to 6,000 warheads. In the end, the Soviet arsenal is being slashed to 7,000, while the U.S. gets away with 9,000. Reflecting the quality of the balance of power, this treaty too is an unequal one. The explanations for this unequal cuts are very arcane.

The American literature and media highlight that the most dangerous weapons are eliminated first, and consequently the most severe reduction in the Soviet SS-18's from 308 to 154. That alone accounts for 1,540 warheads. The bulk of U.S. warheads are in the submarine-borne missiles and they will continue to be. It could be argued that since submarines are not under such tight control of the central national authority, as the land-based missiles, they are more dangerous. There are all kinds of justifications in favor of one point of view or the other. Since the Soviets need the American and Western goodwill more than the other way round, they appear to have given up their earlier stand of equality and equal security and accepted a treaty which projects the U.S. as a senior military power.

In reality, these figures do not matter since 7,000 warheads in the hands of the Soviet Union can destroy the U.S. several times over as 9,000 warheads can. The deterrent potential of 9,000 warheads is not more than that of 7,000 or for that matter of even 2,000. The [word indistinct] game of numbers, dimensions of assured destruction and the argument of about first and second strike are all recognized today as apparently sophisticated but phony justification for some arbitrary number of missiles arrived on an ad hoc basis. Thereafter, installations of the MIRVs—Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicles—started and swelled the warhead total to between five to six times.

There are realistic expectations that this agreement will be followed by more negotiations to cut the arsenals further. They are reasonable expectations because there is clear realization that a nuclear war cannot be won and, therefore, should not be fought. For the purpose of deterrence, these insane arsenals do not make any sense. One suggestion has been that the present missiles should be replaced by single warhead ones, in which case the same number of missiles will have only one-fourth or less number of warheads. Another view is even five percent of the present arsenals in survivable mobile vehicles can exercise the same degree of deterrence as the present or proposed ones do.

The START does not prohibit R and D and production of new missiles in place of the present ones, though there are stipulations on issues like launch weight. Just as there is radioactive decay in nature, assuming that a nuclear war is not likely to be fought among nuclear-weapon powers, the world should be able to look forward to a decay in the nuclear arsenals, since maintaining the arsenals will cost money. However, the R and D establishments of both sides may be expected to come forward with various proposals for new generation weapons.

Till now, the arms race was fueled by the anticipation of what was considered feasible in terms of R and D on one's own side was bound to be attempted by the adversarial sides and achieved. Such anticipation is no longer justifiable in a world that has ended the cold war and is attempting to develop an international society in place of the anarchic system we have been used to. What is, therefore, needed beyond arms control is the mutual restraint on weapon-oriented R and D. At least, in the initial stages, both U.S. and the Soviet weapon laboratories and military industrial complexes are bound to resist any such proposals. There is, however, a view that it is the defense R and D-led growth of the U.S. that has resulted in its losing its competitiveness to Europe and Japan. If the economic competition with Europe and Japan intensifies and the other view gains further ground, the Americans may consider it in their own interest to switch over their enormous R and D assets away from military application toward civilian one. At present, such a long-range vision is not evident in the U.S. leadership. Its economic competitors—West Europe and Japan—have no interest in weaning the U.S. away from military R and D.

Iran

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

LD1008105191 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman arrived here on a three-day official visit Saturday.

Rahman was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival, Rahman said that in his talks with senior Iranian officials he will raise Tehran-Dhaka relations as well as regional and international issues. The outcome of the just concluded 20th foreign minsiterial session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Istanbul, Turkey, will also be assessed in talks, he added.

Rahman also said that his country is prepared to cooperate with Iran in its post-war reconstruction efforts.

A large number of Bangladesh workers, engineers and doctors who are a source of foreign exchange for the country have become jobless in the course of the Persian Gulf war.

Discusses Ties With Velayati

LD1008180491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman arrived in Tehran today on a three-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati at Mehrabad airport.

Mr. Rahman met and conferred with Mr. Velayati this afternoon. Bilateral ties, regional and international issues, and also the outcome of the recent session of the Islamic Conference Organization were discussed. The foreign minister of Bangladesh voiced the desire of his country's new government to expand bilateral ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. He said: The two countries enjoy a suitable climate for bilateral cooperation in terms of political, cultural, and economic affairs. He added: We totally support the IRI's initiative in respect of the establishment of an Islamic Common Market, which we deem extremely essential and indispensable for the development and the expansion of the Islamic countries' economies.

Mr. Velayati remarked: In terms of population, Bangladesh is the second largest Islamic country. We attach much importance to the promotion of bilateral ties, and welcome the promotion of economic and commercial ties between the two countries.

Meets President Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1108104591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] In his meeting today with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: During the current conditions, we expect Islamic countries to cooperate with one another so that the rights of the Muslim and oppressed peoples of the world are not infringed. The president added: The issue that concerns us is that the rights of Palestinians and Muslim people are violated by taking advantage of the conditions after the Persian Gulf war, since it is possible that Israel's neighboring states do not have sufficient resources for resistance. In that case, other Islamic countries must put their efforts into strengthening those countries.

Speaking of the new conditions in Bangladesh, he said: One of the priorities in our foreign policy is the establishment of relations and cooperation with deprived countries, especially the Islamic nations of the world. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to assist in solving the difficulties of Bangladesh to the best of its ability. The president welcomed the expansion and intensification of bilateral relations in all fields.

At that meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the Bangladesh foreign minister conveyed the warm greetings of the prime minister, government, and Muslim people of that country and submitted a report on the latest developments in Bangladesh and the problems caused by floods. He thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its humanitarian assistance to the flood-stricken people of his country and said: We feel close to the Muslim and friendly country of Iran. We hope to take steps to expand ties in the political, economic, scientific and cultural fields, considering the common views that we hold on various global issues. Finally, referring to our country's president's talk concerning the rights of the Palestinian people, he said: We too believe that Islamic countries are one single Ummah. No Islamic country, anywhere in the world, should be subject to invasion.

Discusses Islamic Common Market

LD1108122191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Bangladesh welcomed Iran's proposal to set up an Islamic common market and shown willingness to become a member of it; which is an important factor that could enable that Muslim country—always faced with a great deal of economic hardship—to do without the help of the global arrogance.

Bangladesh, with a population of over 110 million, has the capability for participation in joint cooperation, particularly economic cooperation. It can, by dispatching a significant work force to Iran, participate in the reconstruction of our country, thereby assisting the expansion of the two countries' relations. Currently around 10,000 Bangladesh workes, among them 2,000 doctors, are working in Iran. It is expected that mutual agreements would increase that figure in the near future.

In any case, political experts believe that the discussions of the two countries' foreign ministers—concentrating on bilateral relations, as well as Islamic, regional, and international issues—are indicative of the fact that those

two countries, particularly since the recent developments in the Persian Gulf and the Indian subcontinent, place much significance on the expansion and development of bilateral relations.

Signs Memorandum, Departs

NC1208062991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] At the conclusion of his three-day visit to Iran, Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Rahman signed a cultural, scientific and technical memorandum of understanding on behalf of his country. Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati spoke to our correspondent about the agreement:

[Begin recording] Iran and Bangladesh have a long-standing record of friendly relations. Since the new regime assumed office this activity has been accelerated and there has been an even greater inclination toward broadening our relations. The two sides had many discussions before reaching the memorandum.

We attach immense importance to our ties with Bangladesh, in its capacity of the second largest Muslim country in terms of population, and believe that cooperation in the field of cultural relations can play a fundamental role in boosting cultural relations among Islamic countries.

The two countries intend to exchange delegations and views in various political, economic and scientific dimensions. [end recording]

This is the first program of scientific, cultural, and technical exchanges between the two countries since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Rahman left Tehran for Dhaka and was seen off by Mr. Velayati.

Further Reportage on Bakhtiar Murder

Pasdaran Accused

LD1208194191 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] This evening there was accusation from the Paris office of the People's Mojahedin Movement, which is a movement opposed to the current regime in Tehran. According to the People's Mojahedin, members of the pasdaran, an Iranian government militia force, are reportedly behind the assassination of Shapur Bakhtiar. This is what the communique from the Paris office of the People's Mojahedin says.

Ministry Denies Link

LD1208172691 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent, the Foreign Ministry spokesman rejected any connection between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the murder of Shapur Bakhtiar. He said: The existence of such people as individuals devoid of any popular base or affiliation has no effect on the trend of the Islamic revolution. In fact, their existence does not constitute a threat and their death does not bring any credit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. While the Iranian people are themselves victims of the terrorism supported by certain Western countries, the Islamic Republic has always strongly condemned any terrorist act.

He expressed regret over assertions published by some foreign newspapers which, influenced by the suggestions of certain counterrevolutionary elements, are trying somehow to connect this incident to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We have always asked the authorities of other countries, who have received plunderers of public properties and known terrorists under various pretexts, to answer to the Iranian nation for the huge facilities they have placed at the disposal of these counterrevolutionaries.

Kordestan Denounces Murder

NC1108095091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Aug 91

["Text" of a statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan on the death of former Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar on 9 August 1991]

[Text] Dear compatriots: News agencies reported on Thursday, 8 August, that Dr. Shahpur Bakhtiar, head of the National Resistance Movement, and one of his aides, were stabbed to death in a Paris suburb. Although the details of this savage assassination have not been announced by French authorities, there is no doubt that this crime—like other terrorist acts in the past two or three years, for example the assassination of Dr. Qasemlu and his aides in Vienna, of Kazem Rajavi in Geneva, and of Sirus Elahi and 'Abdol Rahman Borumand in Paris ,was perpetrated by criminal mercenaries of Iran's clerical regime.

With this crime the clerical regime once again reveals its homicidal nature and overtly shows how persistent it is in continuing the physical annihilation of its political opponents, both at home and abroad.

The direct supervisors of this oppressive and murderous policy are the regime's high-ranking officials. Those who intentionally or naively attribute such acts to so-called extremist factions, are undertaking the role of justifying the regime's treacherous propaganda policy. Rafsanjani

and his so-called realistic and moderate clique have always been the engineers and implementers of the clerical regime policies.

The responsibilities that the governments in whose countries such crimes are perpetrated cannot be ignored. The wheeling and dealing behavior of the Austrian Government to the known assassins of Dr. Qasemlu and his aides, and the irresponsible and indifferent stance adopted by the French Government regarding the various terrorist acts that have been carried out against the Iranian regime's political opponents in that country actually encourage the clerical regime to continue these types of actions.

When a murderer like Anis Naqqash, whose assassination attempt against Dr. Bakhtiar a few years ago failed, but led to the death of one person and the wounding of another, is simply released and handed over to the Iranian regime with his accomplices, after spending a few years in prison you can expect more problems.

We extend our condolences to Dr. Shahpur Bakhtiar's family, friends, and supporters, and we express our outrage and aversion toward the criminal and terrorist-nurturing clerical regime. We demand that the French Government undertake its responsibility in safeguarding the lives and security of Iranian political refugees and avoid a wheeling and dealing and submissive policy vis-a-vis the Iranian regime and to adopt a stance which befits it.

Envoy Delivers Gorbachev Message to Counterpart

LD1208185891 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev on Monday submitted Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi a message from President Mikhail Gorbachev for his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Part of President Gorbachev's message is devoted to his recent summit meeting in Moscow with U.S. President George Bush. Elsewhere he calls for broadening of mutual ties and promotion of cooperation for solving of such regional issues as that of Afghanistan.

Va'ezi, a deputy for Euro-American affairs, voiced support for any initiative to promote Tehran-Moscow ties.

In response to a request by Gudev, Va'ezi briefed him on some points regarding a quadrilateral meeting between the Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers and leaders of Afghan mujahidin groups based in Iran and Pakistan, which was held in Islamabad recently.

Habibi on Iraq's Status, Hostage 'Package'

LD1208204191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 91

[News conference by First Vice President Hasan Habibi with unidentified correspondents in Tehran on 12 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] The U.S. defense secretary announced yesterday that the Iraqi regime is no longer considered a threat to the region. What is the view of the Islamic Republic and is this considered a kind of collusion to establish the present regime in Iraq?

[Habibi] [Passage omitted] The fact of the matter is that the plans regarding the region partly concern the peace conference, or as you might say, the so-called peace conference, because there will be no peace, as we have foreseen this from the start. Actually, our close friends, such as Syria, have reached the same conclusion. However, as I said in the previous session, in a precise political move Syria has thrown the ball back into the enemy's court ,which is currently Israel, and who should show that it is prepared for real talks. From the start we foresaw that Israel would not be prepared for such talks.

That was about the peace conference. About the way Iraq is being dealt with, in any case, perhaps in a way Iraq is no threat to the big powers. In any case, it is under some sort of siege. The future of Iraq, as far as the big powers are concerned, depends on whether or not it accommodates the wishes of those powers.

[Correspondent] I wanted to ask a question about the release of Western hostages. What was Iran's role in the release of Western hostages and what will become of the several Iranian hostages who are under the control of the Phalangists? What has Iran done about them? Has Iran asked them for anything in return for the release of Western hostages; has it exerted any pressure?

[Habibi] We said at a certain point in time that, in general, we are opposed to hostages remaining in a hostage situation and we said that we will use what is described and treated as our influence for the release of the hostages ;all the hostages. From that time onward, when we were asked, we gave this same answer; that is, that in any case, hostage is a term which has a meaning applicable to all, both Western and Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian hostages. All these have to be regarded as hostages and this issue has to be resolved in a package [majmu'eh]. From that time onward, we thought that the responsibility for this matter lay with those who held the hostages and we said that you should negotiate with them. So negotiations have taken place and some of the hostages have been freed. Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is active with regard to those hostages , that is, those who are from Iran and are being held by the Phalangists or others and are in Lebanon. God willing that this too will be brought to an end. [passage omitted]

President's 'Silence' on Criticism Viewed

NC0908134791 Tehran SORUSH in Persian 3 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Mr. President: What Is Your Opinion?"]

[Excerpts] Mr. President! Publications owners and their employees sometimes are seized with amazement and ambiguity—even though they are more or less aware of the stances and the bases of these stances—especially those groups of publications which view events realistically and have not become enmeshed in cliques and have not permitted ulterior motives to cloud their minds, wisdom, acumen, and vision. These people have the right to bring their queries and doubts before you and to demand clarification because you are the president, the head of the executive branch, the implementor of the Constitution, as well as the person closest to his eminence the leader.

If, as always, you clarify everything with a welcoming expression, we would like to say:

For some months the government's cultural policies and measures have been the target of attacks, whether they are books, the theater, music, plays, radio, television and so on. Even though with the demise of His Eminence the Imam, such attacks were foreseeable, but what was not anticipated was the silence on the part of the president.

If our collective memory serves us well, we remember at the Friday prayers in Tehran and Qom there was a deluge of harsh criticism—about our stance on religion, or of the fear of our losing Islam—which began with the screening of the serial "The Desert." [passage omitted]

In the past few months most of the policies and activities of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance have been targets of vehement onslaughts. Do you favor or oppose the criticism of these attackers? Or is it that the above ministry is not legally part of your cabinet?

Do you not consider the recent attacks and criticism an insult to the performance of the government that was in office during the Imam's lifetime? Whatever the opponents had queried in the Imam's lifetime was published and disseminated. Today, the acquiring of a license for publishing books, making films or composing music is far more difficult than it was four years ago.

The broad-mindedness that prevails on economic issues contrasts sharply with the narrow-mindedness in cultural issues. If we divided the sphere of the government's jurisdiction into industry, agriculture, transportation, policymaking and culture and so on, we should expect that you will justly divided your time in all these areas.

The country is facing economic difficulties and the people are anxiously awaiting the completion of your plans. It is obvious economic problems should require most of your time. If even a small percentage of that is spent on issues, problems, policies, planning of cultural activities and anticipating such plots, we can certainly imagine a much brighter future. Of course, there would be no need for apprehension, despite the presence of those who have been lying in wait for years to destroy the structure raised by His Eminence the Imam.

Deputy Rahbari Criticizes Hamadan Officials

LD0708205391

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 1100 GMT on 7 August broadcasts the 30-minute "The Majles and the People" program. The first part is devoted to a number of complaints by government employees and members of the public about housing shortages and high rents. The program interviews Engineer Shahraki, the chairman of the Majles Housing Committee, after a number of telephone conversations with a few members of the public. He says that the government and the Majles are well aware of housing difficulties and they are trying to find solutions to this problem. One solution is to pass a bill forcing government departments and factory owners to provide cheap housing for their employees. He asserts no permit for the construction of a factory should be issued until it is certain that the problem of the housing of the employees has been sorted out or included in the project.

The program also carries parts of the pre-agenda speeches of two Majles deputies—Rahbari from Razan and 'Ali Fazel Mosbat Hamadani, both of them deputies from Hamadan Province. Rahbari says: "The administration of Hamadan Province at the moment is such that the minimum attention is paid to the difficulties of the people, especially the difficulties of villagers. We are in the middle of the month of Mordad [beginning 23 July] of the year 1370. Most of the projects, which have been approved by the (Five Year) Plan Committee, have not yet been started in various provincial districts and villages. Even work on completing projects, which have been left unfinished from previous years, have not yet been started. The people are suffering great hardships. The difficulties which people are facing, especially in the area of the provision of water, are such that I have no option but to bring my points to the ear of the officials through this channel, because whenever anyone tries to phone them they are either away, or in seminars, or on leave, or on missions. They never answer letters either. Therefore, the only way open to us as people's deputies is to make our remarks through this sacred tribune. I hope that all the officials may act according to their duties and do not cause greater hardships and difficulties for the people."

"The point which I wish to bring to the attention of the officials of the province is that if we ignore the people and the people's difficulties, we have not discharged our responsibilities and we will be answerable to the people. [The Majles speaker tells him that his time is over, but he continues] If even one person is in difficulty we will be answerable for it on the Day of Judgment." He goes on: "We should discharge our duties, and if we are not

capable of performing our duties we should leave the scene so that those who are able to perform those responsibilities may undertake them." [The speaker again reminds him that his time is over and he stops.]

The other pre-agenda speaker 'Ali Fazel Mosbat Hamadani complains of high inflation and calls on officials to tell the people about the proper changes in their consumption patterns, instead of engaging in a lot of repetitive remarks from the media.

Kordestan Radio Reports Clashes Near Oshnaviych

NC0908112091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The Voice of Iranian Kordestan correspondent reports from the Oshnaviyeh District that the party cadres and the peshmergas launched military operations against the reactionary mullahs' regime in the Oshnaviyeh District on 2 August 1991 to commemorate those who were martyred in the path of freedom and autonomy. [passage omitted]

Among the enemy agents who were killed, the following four have been identified:

1. Hoseyn 'Ali Sarani, a resident of Zahedan.

2. Mozaffar Moserzadeh, son of Farajollah and a resident of Hashtrud.

3. Hasan Farajian Hajj 'Aliru, resident of (Shahviran) in Mahabad.

4. Mohammad Amin Purmardan.

Our correspondent continues that during these heroic operations, 27 of the enemy's agents were captured by the peshmergas. [passage omitted]

The booty the peshmergas seized during this clash, which destroyed a base in (Akhichekan), includes: An 81-mm mortar launcher, a Russian Dushka machinegun, an RPG-11, a G-3 machinegun, two collapsible G-3 rifles, 26 ordinary G-3 rifles, a 16-cartridge pistol, a PAC-77 communications set, a box of hand grenades, a Toyota vehicle with the license plate 7766, 143 (?bullets) for the G-3's, 30 gas masks, 40 sleeping bags, 100 blankets, two tankers with a 2000-liter capacity, two water tankers, military equipment including bayonets and vacuum flasks in miscellaneous quantities, a depot full of Dushka ammunition, RPG missiles, G-3 cartridges, and stocks of foodstuffs. [passage omitted]

As soon as the peshmergas opened fire on the enemy, two vehicles of reinforcements arrived, armed with Dushka machineguns. These forces fell into the trap of the valiant peshmergas lying in ambush on the (Talehjar-Akhichekan). During the clash, the reinforcements were killed, fled, or were captured.

In this heroic blitzkrieg, five of the mercenaries killed were left, three of whom were identified as follows:

1. Second Lieutenant Saheb 'Abbasqana, son of Mohammad, a resident of Ardabil, assistant commander of the second regiment.

2. 'Evaz Mohebbi, son of 'Abdollah and a resident of (Hashtab Darbar)

3. Mohammad Latif Maleki, son of 'Aziz, resident of the village of (Galen) in the (Yavara') District of Sanandaj, conscript.

In this clash, the following two mercenaries were captured:

1. Farzad (Kontani), son of Zabihollah and a resident of Kerman who was in charge of the logistics of the second division stationed in the (Talehjar) Heights.

2. Shahram Shafi'i, son of Mohammad and a resident of Tehran, a conscript second sargent who was a driver of the Toyota vehicle in (Belrosi) village. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Replacement of Sharif Government Demanded

BK1308051291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] In Pakistan 22 opposition parties and groups have demanded the replacement of the Nawaz Sharif government by a national government. A statement issued at the end of their day-long conference in Lahore said that all opposition members of the national and provincial assemblies would resign if the demand is not accepted.

Our Islamabad correspondent reports that the government and the oppostion are planing to hold separate public rallies in Lahore tomorrow in support of their viewpoint.

Sharif Meets, Talks With USSR's Kozyrev

BK1208154891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has emphasized the importance of close contacts among the concerned states for an early and honorable resolution of the Afghan problem. He was talking to Nikolay Kozyrev, the Soviet deputy foreign minister and ambassador at-large, in Islamabad today. Kozyrev is leading a Soviet delegation currently visiting Pakistan for talks on the Afghanistan problem.

Offering whole-hearted support for a political solution of the problem which would ensure lasting peace in the region, Nawaz Sharif emphasized that the Soviet Union must play a key-role in bringing about a solution of the Afghan problem. If we all work together, the Afghan problem will be solved soon, Nawaz Sharif added.

The prime minister also hoped that Kozyrev's visit will also contribute toward significant improvement in bilateral relations. Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan desires not only the resolution of the Afghan problem, but is also keen on finding peaceful solutions to all outstanding issues in the region, including the issue of nuclear nonproliferation. Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan wants to enter the 21st century with confidence for which the establishment of peace in the region is very necessary.

The prime minister said both Pakistan and India should remove all obstacles in the path of establishing good neighborly relations because it is in the interest of Pakistan as well as that of the people of India. Pakistan has taken significant measures in this connection, including a proposal for five-nation discussions for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia.

Kozyrev thanked the prime minister for his efforts in bringing about an early resolution to the Afghan problem. He expressed his government's keen desire for an early solution to the problem. He thanked the Pakistan prime minister for securing the release of a Soviet POW from Afghan mojahedin captivity.

Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan has said that the Soviet Union has welcomed the tripartite talks held in Islamabad and its results supporting inter-Afghan dialogue for a solution of the Afghan problem. This was stated by Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan at a news conference in Islamabad today at the end of the two-day talks between Pakistan Foreign Ministry officials and the Soviet delegation. He said the next round of talks with the Soviet side is expected to take place in Moscow soon after the next round of tripartite talks between Pakistan, Iran, and Afghan mojahedin.

Answering a question, Shaharyar Khan said that the Soviet delegation met with a seven-member group of Afghan mojahedin, led by Harakat-e Eslami chief Nabi Muhammadi, in Islamabad today. Asked about the nature of discussions, he said that although he was not present at the talks, it is understood that both sides presented their views. He adeed that the mojahedin also handed over a Soviet POW to the Soviet delgation.

Sharif Promises Repatriation to Nationals

BK1208165291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has reassured a delegation of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh that the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government was committed to their repatriation and arrangements were underway to start the process at the earliest. The delegation, led by Alhaj Nasim Khan, called on the prime minister in Islamabad this evening.

Later, talking to APP, the leader of the delegation said the prime minister has assured them that the repatriation of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh was a part of the IJI manifesto and the government would fulfill its promise in this regard.

The prime minister informed him of the efforts being made for repatriation and said these Pakistanis will be rehabilitated in Punjab.

Alhaj Nasim Khan said he was conveying the appeal of the prime minister to stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh not to undertake any long march.

U.S. Role in South Asia Peace Process Viewed

BK1208071391 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 12 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Mending Pak-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] Pakistan has jumped the nuclear "red light", was how US Ambassador Robert Oakley has explained away Washington's belligerent posture on Pakistan's nuclear programme. "If you go through a red light in crowded traffic and an accident happens, don't say you weren't warned," he said. The Ambassador went at some length to trace the history of the "detailed dialogue" on the nuclear issue which he said had begun in November 1988 but not publicised in Pakistan to the extent it ought to have been in order to share information with the Press and Parliament. He also tried to bring home the message that Pakistan did not keep its word of keeping its nuclear programme at a low level, with no further enrichment activity combined with a regional approach to the issue in cooperation with the US. "Our information on the level of Pakistan's nuclear programme changed in early 1990, so what happened, happened," the Ambassador said. Mr Oakley tried to dispel the impression that the US's hardened stance was an outgrowth of its changed perception about Pakistan's "strategic utility" and asserted that Pressler law might have been applied in the same manner even if the Afghan war had been running at "full tilt." Nevertheless, he admitted that Pakistan was told in early 1990 that the Cold War had ended and priorities were now changed, with the emphasis shifting from "anti-communism" to nuclear non-proliferation, narcotics control, etc.

Ambassador Oakley has been quite explicit in underscoring the US priorities and concerns in the post-Cold War era. And it would be just wishful thinking if Islamabad persists in the elusive chase for renewed US patronage without finding a via media on the nuclear issue that would satisfy the Americans. To roll back the nuclear programme unilaterally would entail opening our installations to international inspection and renounce whatever leverage Pakistan could have to acquire a balance of terror with India, besides incurring massive popular displeasure over what would be seen as a sellout of national interests. The other option for Pakistan, that is if Islamabad is really anxious to remain

on the right side of the sole superpower presiding over the New World Order, is to vigorously pursue the idea of a nuclear-free South Asia and seek the US cooperation to persuade India for a regional treaty. Mr Oakley said himself that the New World Order concept was a principle of settlement of disputes by peaceful means. If the US government does not recognise India's claim that Kashmir is an integral part of India and envisages a political solution arrived at among the governments of Pakistan and India, and the people of Kashmir, it is perhaps time for Washington to fulfil its obligations as the oracle of the New World Order. Kashmir and the nuclear issues are the two main obstacles to peace in the region and if the US wishes to live up to its promise of helping to resolve disputes through negotiations it must initiate a comprehensive peace process in South Asia similar to the one it has launched in the Middle East.

Sri Lanka

Operation Against LTTE at Elephant Pass Report

BK1208113191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The [Operation] Balawegaya troops with air support have begun operations against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists after consolidating the new modern and southern forward defense lines of the Elephant Pass security forces camp. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that ground troops were moving out and attacking remaining pockets of terrorists, while air force aircraft were also aiming at targets. The sources said crew of air force aircraft on reconnaissance flights had reported observing hike in terrorist activity at Chavakachcheri, 40 km north of Elephant Pass indicating the LTTE was attempting a build up in this coastal town in Jaffna and at Kilinochchi, 25 km south of the pass.

Meanwhile, the LTTE radio transmission revealed the terrorists' latest efforts at conscription has been a flop. Although the LTTE opened two recruitment centers at the secondary school at Chavakachcheri and Hindu College, Jaffna, not a single person answered the Tigers' call to arm.

Meanwhile, a leading Tamil Nadu newspaper THE DINAMANI has in an editorial advised the LTTE to give up and said the LTTE is so enfeebled militarily and morally that it has no alternative but to accept the conditions laid down by the Sri Lankan Government.

Minister Comments on Rupees Allocated for Security

BK1208114591 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister, minister of finance and state minister for defense, D.B. Wijetunge, has said that the government will win the northeast war. Addressing the second annual congress of the Public Service National Trade Union Federation at Srikotte yesterday, he said that victory was near at hand. Twenty-five billion rupees has to be allocated for security purposes. He said everybody's cooperation, dedication, and patience was needed to overcome the problem of war. Once this problem was solved, the workers problem should be tackled. Today a people's government is in power. The same consideration is given to those who govern and to those who are governed. The prime minister said that due to the past disturbances, there was a deterioration in the economy and large sums had to be allocated to overcome the situation.

Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs Festus Perera said that he would make every effort to resolve the problem of workers. He said that trade union will soon be called for consultation.

The president of the Public Services National Trade Union Federation and minister of state for tourism, Gamini Lokuge, said that the trade union was on a very firm foundation. He said that in the resolution of problems, the trade union would act in the manner in which the economy would not be affected.

The secretary, P.P. Antony, made the vote of thanks.